

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Alaska for 2017-2019

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Alaska

Agency: Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce Development - Division of Vocational Rehab

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0032-01](#) in the Grant Award screen.

Part I: Assurances

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

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

Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services/Division of Senior & Disability Services

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

Alaska Dept. of Labor/ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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

Statewide Independent Living Council of Alaska

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

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

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

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Duane Mayes, Director, Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services and John Cannon, Director, Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Section 2: SPIL Development

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

- The provision of State independent living services;

- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
- Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

Section 3: Independent Living Services

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

3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff

member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Section 4: Eligibility

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

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

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

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 8: Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

Section 9: Signatures

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

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

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name Joan O'Keefe

Title Alaska SILC Chair/ILNetwork Chair/SAIL Ex. Director/SPIL Signatory

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/28/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Duane Mayes

Title Director, Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/28/2016

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

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

Name John Cannon

Title Director, Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/28/2016

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

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Goals and Mission

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

Goal Name:Inclusion Goal

Goal Description:

Alaskans with disabilities have the training, tools, and resources available to live independently in the community of choice.

Goal Name:IL Network Goal

Goal Description:

The independent living network in Alaska promotes independent living ideals through education, outreach, and partnerships.

Goal Name:SILC Goal

Goal Description:

The SILC will become a more robust nonprofit.

1.2 Objectives

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

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
Inclusion Goal	Objective 1.1: Alaska has a community transit system that uses a variety of modes and programs (appropriate	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>for the region) to help people with disabilities be able to live independently in the community of choice.</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1 Provide short-term operational support to the Alaska Mobility Coalition on sustainability options and next steps.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 1.1.2 Collaborating with state and local stakeholders, increase the accessibility, affordability, availability, and safety of no less than three modes of travel (either in a different community or different mode of transportation used).</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 1.1.3 Explore the feasibility of public and paratransit passes that work on more than one system and locale.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: Access Alaska</p> <p>Activity 1.1.4 Advocate for accessible taxis in at least one city in each region of responsibility (e.g., SAIL: SE region of Alaska).</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p>		
<p>Inclusion Goal</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: Increase the amount of accessible, affordable, available housing.</p> <p>Activity 1.2.1 Increase awareness and opportunities for the use of home surveys, resources, and modifications to optimize 'aging in place' opportunities.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 1.2.2 Working with no less than four regional housing authorities to promote Housing First initiatives and other programs to increase the housing options, promote integrated housing, fair housing, and equal access for people with disabilities in Alaska.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 1.2.3 Working with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, local and state governments, and others,</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>promote universal design or visit-ability for all housing units designed/built with public funds.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>		
Inclusion Goal	<p>Objective 1.3: Increase the number of Alaskans with disabilities who use independent living services to become employed.</p> <p>Activity 1.3.1 Partner with innovators and adopt at least two new best practices as it relates to employment, benefits counseling and issues related to either topic.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 1.3.2 Increase by 10% - the number of people with disabilities who are using the CILs for job career exploration, job preparation, and/or other employment supports.</p> <p>- Lead Agencies: Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Activity 1.3.3 Grow the number of Alaskans with disabilities who found employment while consumers of independent living services.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Activity 1.3.4 Continue to support and promote Employment First activities and any new legislation at the state or federal level that promotes employment of people with disabilities.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 1.3.5 Partnering with our sister boards (e.g., DD Council), encourage the adoption of policies, procedures, and legislation that supports the employment of people with disabilities on at least two occasions.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Inclusion Goal	<p>Objective 1.4: Alaskans with disabilities have access to health information and services needed to experience health and wellness throughout the lifespan.</p> <p>Activity 1.4.1 Collaborate with Alaska Department of Health and Social Service on no less than three programs,</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>polices, and practices and encourage the inclusion of people with disabilities, as well as the necessary accommodations.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 1.4.2 Promote and disseminate, at least quarterly, information on upcoming health and wellness activities (with and without modification/alteration).</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 1.4.3 During the next 18 months, participate in relevant activities related to Medicaid Expansion and Reform activities led by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>		
Inclusion Goal	<p>Objective 1.5: Increase access to assistive technology, low technology assistive tools, and durable medical equipment (DME) that can increase independence.</p> <p>Activity 1.5.1 Work with at least two other stakeholders to modify existing Medicaid policies to allow the reuse/reutilization of assistive technology (AT), low technology assistive tools (low tech), and durable medical equipment (DME).</p> <p>- Lead Agency: Access Alaska and SILC</p> <p>Activity 1.5.2 Build awareness about the uses of AT, low tech and DME within the disability community by two or more methods, including in person (during outreach trips) and electronic distribution.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
IL Network Goal	<p>Objective 2.1: Maintain existing high rates of return for CIL consumer satisfaction surveys each quarter.</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1 Collaborate with the CILs to have timely completion of quarterly surveys regardless of mode surveys were answered (online or via paper).</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>Activity 2.1.2 Increase awareness of the satisfaction surveys within the IL Network.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: CILs</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3 Promote surveys each quarter through social media and, when possible, use incentives to motivate consumers to fill out survey and return it.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>		
<p>IL Network Goal</p>	<p>Objective 2.2: Increase the awareness of Independent Living services in Alaska.</p> <p>Activity 2.2.1 Educate communities interested in having a CIL about the Independent Living philosophy; encourage development of strategic plan before moving forward.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 2.2.2 Annually, work with the community, policy makers, and legislators to increase funds for rural outreach and expansion.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 2.2.3 Increase awareness of IL with the general population (urban and rural) through targeted outreach, advertising, and social media.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Objective to be achieved</p> <p>Objective 2.4: Create no less than 6 opportunities to build awareness and train CIL staff, SILC staff and members in order to create standardized terms, better utilization of products and services, and for a better understanding of the roles, responsibilities, and history of independent living.</p> <p>Activity 2.4.1 Coordinate with sister boards (e.g., DD council, MH board, SRC, etc.) to, at least once a year, educate each other staffs? and board members on various topics while learning more about each agency.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>Activity 2.4.2 Create a conference to increase the knowledge, skills, and abilities of staff, boards, and partner agencies on issues specific to independent living/ the independent living philosophy.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 2.4.3 Disseminate information about trainings specific to IL and/or disability issues available to CILs, SILC, and our partners.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 2.4.4 Continue to create a yearly infographic to illustrate to staff, boards, and policy makers the positive impact independent living makes on individual lives and the community as a whole.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: IL Network</p> <p>Activity 2.4.5 Concentrate some time at one or more SILC meetings to learn more about sustaining a nonprofit, discretionary income, the role and purpose of agency level strategic planning.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>		
SILC Goal	<p>Goal 3: The SILC will become a more robust nonprofit</p> <p>Objective 3.1: Increase the financial stability of the SILC by diversifying income streams.</p> <p>Activity 3.1.1 Submit the forms necessary to be able to accept donations with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS Form 1023)</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2. Apply to be a nonprofit entity on Pick Click Give.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 3.1.3. Research and develop other opportunities to receive donations.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>Objective 3.2 Explore no less than two new ways of increasing Independent Living options for Alaskans with disabilities.</p> <p>Activity 3.2.1 Review options for creating an IL foundation in Alaska.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p> <p>Activity 3.2.2 Research opportunities to bring the IL Philosophy to rural Alaska through leveraging partnerships.</p> <p>- Lead Agency: SILC</p>		
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1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

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

- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside

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

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

Many new outreach efforts have been started. The SILC has taken over the responsibility of getting consumer satisfaction surveys through the U.S. Postal mail service. The surveys have a cover letter which explains who we are, which CIL they received services from, why we are doing these letters and surveys, and the opportunity to win a small prize if they return the survey. Every CIL and the SILC uses social media to get the word out about certain ideas and opportunities out to the community. These posts are picked up by other groups who get them out

to their communities. In rural Alaska, this is an important mechanism for the exchange of information; it is more influential than television ads. The SILC and the CILs participate in rural outreach fairs, such as Health Fairs, to get exposed to more individuals in more communities. The IL Network also regularly uses our sister boards to get the independent living message to more communities, such as during rural outreach trips and to specific disabilities (e.g., developmental). The CILs will participate in cultural events and fairs as part of the attempt to reach out to specific cultures and races. One of the easiest ways to reach out to a community is through one to one contact. Peer mentoring is one of the best ways to overcome divisions based on our outward appearance and bring a community in from the cold.

1.3 Financial Plan

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

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

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

Year 1 - 2017 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B			305350	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			857440	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		213000		
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	137997			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	62000	25000	1041360	

Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	199997	238000	2204150	0

Year 2 - 2018 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B			305350	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			857440	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		213000		
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	137997			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	62000	25000	1041360	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	199997	238000	2204150	0

Year 3 - 2019 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B			305350	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			857440	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		213000		

Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	137997			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	62000	25000	1041360	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	199997	238000	2204150	0

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

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

Part B funds will further all objectives

Part C funds will further all objectives

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

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

During the past three years, the Alaska Independent Living Network has seen a decline in independent living specific funds. The Network Part B of the Act Funds have declined 3% between FY15 and F16. The Alaska IL Network received, in FFY16, approximately \$1.5 million in independent living related funding. The Network has worked diligently to diversify the funding of each center for independent living. The centers received approximately \$1.1 million dollars from the State of Alaska, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for independent living services. We are able to serve individuals in approximately half of the cities in Alaska. The Alaska Independent Living Network is committed to diversifying its base. To go about that diversification in a variety of ways, including using Medicaid billing (Access Alaska), being an Aging and Disability Resource Center (SAIL and ILC), and slowly growing the size of the organization (Arctic Access). Each organization also gets funding from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Service grants to perform programs that are related or complimentary to the base IL grant. Each Center works to increase the amount of fee for service it provides and have become community rehabilitation providers for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

In the upcoming fiscal years, our DSE will be the Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services (SDS). In discussions with SDS about how the Alaska Independent Living Network will be funded, we have been informed that the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will continue to use Section 101(a) (18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion funds) to fund the

SILC for the next three years. The funding for the CILs will remain at current rates and independent living will be protected from cuts for at least one year after the transition.

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

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

The Network also accepts in-kind donations; this is especially true in rural Alaska. In rural Alaska, the Nome and Kotzebue office spaces (for Arctic Access) are in-kind donations. This includes the square footage of the office, the heat, phones, and internet. All of the CILs accept donations of funds and equipment (e.g., loan closet materials, office equipment, etc.). Donations vary greatly, but all centers receive some amount of funding from donations. Despite being a nonprofit, the SILC has not researched and developed outside funding streams. The SILC is reviewing the forms needed to accept donations, including IRS form 1023 and Pick Click Give registration.

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

All independent living funds identified above, Title VII, Part B Chapter 1, Title VII Part C and State General Funds are used for core funding for the IL Network. Agnew::Beck assisted the SILC to develop a Resource Plan which takes into consideration population, geography, cost of living and utilizes a hub concept to expand the IL Network. Additionally, all CILs are expected to raise funds outside of independent living dollars to further their mission and contribute towards sustainability. The SILC will establish a 50% target of additional, non-IL funding for the CILs under the resource plan.

On May 19, 2011 the Alaska SILC adopted the table shown below as the methodology for projecting the cost of providing IL services statewide. This cost analysis methodology for a fully served state takes into account different factors to help estimate the cost of doing business in the urban and more rural and remote areas of Alaska including those off the road system. The entire population of a community was considered, not just people with disabilities. The population size and concentration was factored in with two varying costs. In the less populous areas, a base cost per capita of \$25 (Nome, Homer, Sitka, Bethel) was used while in densely populated areas, a base rate of \$10 per capita (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau) was used. The \$25 and \$10 rates were based on average costs from 2009, with the \$25 rate below the actual per capita costs for SAIL and ILC, due to economies of scale during growth. The total population of each census area was multiplied by the relevant per capita variable to determine the population component.

Geographical costs were illustrated through a ranking system to determine the hub score and the score of the outlying communities. The hub score correlated directly to funding with each hub community receiving one (1) point equaling \$15,000 and each outlying community for that hub receiving one (1) point and equaling \$500. (For example the Bethel Census area has 1 hub community (\$15,000) with a score of 4. The estimated cost to serve the hub community is \$15,000 x 4 or \$60,000. The estimate to serve the outlying areas or villages by the Bethel hub is the total community score which is 140 multiplied by \$500 or \$70,000. In addition, there was a cost of living index that was applied using the McDowell Groups research. Additionally, each community was assigned a ranking between 0 and 5 based on population and being on or off the road system (Anchorage and Fairbanks are 0 and Akiak and Egegik received a 5). These community scores and correlating data are presented on the methodology table below, with total tallies for each community based upon the rankings. Each rank was then multiplied by two different costs, either associated with hub communities or outlying communities.

The projected geography and population costs, when added together, give the total projected cost of serving a region.

Future Funding

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

The DSE contracts with the IL Network using the state fiscal year (July 1- June 30) for Title VII Part B, Chapter 1 and State General Funds. RSA (and now ACL) grants, Title VII Part C, are granted using the federal fiscal year (October 1-September 30), with notification typically occurring in August (June in 2016). It is therefore recognized that the DSE may need to amend contracts during the first quarter of the state fiscal year, in order to maintain funding parity.

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

Should any decreases in federal and/or state funding occur during any year of the SPIL, the SILC and DSE will first determine the availability of any other funds that may be utilized to make up the difference. If not, each CIL will receive a commensurate decrease in funding such that IL Core funding parity is maintained. (For example, if CILs are at 45% comparable funding to each other and one is decreased to 42%, IL Core funding sources will be balanced to ameliorate the effects on the one CIL by sharing the decrease with all the CILS.) All efforts will be made to reach and maintain parity of IL funding across CILs.

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

Should any increases in federal Part B and/or state funding occur, or should Part B and or state funds become available as the result of increases in Part C funding, the CILs will receive a commensurate increase in funding on an equal percentage basis. (For example, if CILs are at 45% comparable funding to each other and one is increased to 47% IL Core funding sources will

be balanced to ameliorate the effects on the one CIL by sharing the increase with all the CILs.) All efforts will be made to reach and maintain parity of IL funding across CILs.

Since additional funding (\$117,081) became available in 2011-2012 through ARRA funding, a competition was held within the Gulf Coast region to open a new Part C funded Center for Independent Living. That competition was awarded to the Independent Living Center, Inc. of the Gulf Coast Region, beginning in FY2011. After creation of the new Part C CIL, any additional, remaining funding will be allocated according to the following funding principles, which were adopted by the Alaska SILC on July 15, 2011:

Maintain existing funding levels for those centers for independent living that meet the standards and assurances set forth in the Rehab Act and the State Plan for Independent Living.

If funding levels increase:

1. Bring all four Centers for Independent Living up to 50% of the needed IL funding (refer to Total Projected Cost Table, 50% of the Total funding needed) using additional funds as they become available.
2. Once all Centers receive 50% of the needed IL funding, the IL Network will expand into a prioritized, unserved area(s) as funding allows.
3. Expansion to new prioritized areas will continue as funding allows.

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

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

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

- Increasing the general awareness of the independent living philosophy by offering more workshops on independent living to the general public and our partners as well as conducting a state conference for CIL staff to attend;
- Partnering with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Department of Health and Social Services to decrease the number of individuals who live in either a nursing home or an assisted living home through transition to the least restrictive environment;
- Offering comprehensive home surveys (Home Modifications for Aging in Place (Home MAP) or comparable tool) across the state to increase the number of individuals living in their own homes for as long as possible;
- And, by being an advocate for better access and accessibility to community events and locations (e.g., health care, voting, sidewalks, etc.).

The Network has been re-energized and are committed to helping other communities with independent living and consumer control values. If successful, these communities will help with the expansion of the independent living philosophy. The Network will be working with partners to advocate for better adherence to the Americans with Disabilities Act including at statewide, regional, and local events, and locations.

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

Each month during the planning of the SPIL there was a teleconferenced meeting. This meeting was attended by a wide variety of individuals, including executive directors; IL Specialist/Advocates; IL volunteers; staff from both the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services; and SILC staff and members.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

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

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

This has been an interesting year of transition and planning. Because of the transition of the Designated State Entity (DSE), various state agencies, the SILS program, the SILC, and the Centers (the basis of the Alaska IL Network) have spent more time developing the SPIL and the Resource Plan. The SILC works well with all of the SILS and Part C centers. Out of the three Part C centers and the one SILS program, there are two new Executive Directors. However, because of the experience and willingness of the other two Executive Directors and funding from the SILC, the IL Network has remained strong and the new Executive Directors have received valuable knowledge and mentoring. Despite the fact that the DSE transition was started without the IL Networks knowledge, it is obvious that the alignment of the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services and IL services is much better. We believe the transition to the new DSE will result in less negative attention from state legislators (some of who asked the same question each year).

The Director of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has been helpful and supportive of the transition, committing to using the Innovation and Expansion Act funds as the operational grant for the SILC for, at the minimum, the three-year duration of this SPIL. We look forward to our continued relationship with DVR and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development as we work on issues of employment, transportation, assistive technology issues, and transition age youth. While there is not a prescriptive requirement to work with the State

Rehabilitation Committee in the new Workforce Innovations and Opportunities Act, in Alaska we plan to continue to partner on specific projects (e.g., transition age youth, Employment First Act). The former grant administrator for the IL grants is now an Ex-Officio on the SILC of Alaska. This will be especially helpful during these first few years of the DSE switch. She will be able to serve as guide to the new grants administrator and give guidance to the other SILC members and staff by offering the 'corporate history' of the SILC.

Because of Alaska's relatively small population base, the SILC, SILS programs, and Part C grantees have all worked with the grant administrators and division management at the new DSE which will help the transition process. The Grant Unit Manager has been an Ex-Officio for the SILC before and has a good working knowledge of the IL Network in Alaska. Currently, the Deputy Director for the DSE sits on the SILC as an Ex-Officio member. She has been a tremendous help in determining how best we can ease pains that come with the transition. The Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities (SDS), besides being the new DSE, will continue to be a major stakeholder committed to offering IL activities to Alaskans with disabilities?. In regards to issues integral to providing IL services, such as transportation, housing, transition of youth out of foster care and of individuals who want to live in the least restrictive environment, health care access, emergency preparedness, recreation, community involvement, peer support, information and referral, the SILC IL Network will be able to partner with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (of which our DSE is a division within).

The SILC will continue to work with the various boards housed in SDS. The SILC has a variety of ongoing projects with the DD Council, including working on creating a new advisory group, led by the SILC, for FEMA and Alaska's emergency management teams, transportation issues, assistive technology, and Medicaid Reform. The Alaska Commission on Aging and the Alaska Long Term Ombudsman combined with the trade association, AgeNet, all work together with the SILC to improve the lives of Elders and seniors (with disabilities). Specifically, we are working on transportation (e.g., accessible taxis, community transit), housing (e.g., aging in place, transition to least restrictive settings), and the state plan for the Commission. The Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse share an Executive Director and partners with the SILC on legislative education and awareness, transportation, voting access, and youth transition.

There are several other committees that the SILC has strong relationship with including those belonging to the Alaska Department of Revenue, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and those who are non-profits and are aligned with a state agency. The Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC) is a non-profit agency that focuses on community transit that is safe, affordable, accessible, and available for the general public, including specifically persons with disabilities. The SILC will be working with the AMC board and providing professional hours to the AMC goals and objectives until such time as the AMC rehires its staff, be absorbed by another agency with a similar mission, or determines to close down the organization. The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, a state agency in the Department of Revenue, is a conduit for change in the way services are provided to individuals with specific disabilities (mental illness, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's and Related Dementia, alcoholism/drug abuse, and/or brain injury. Luckily, because of the amount of funding available through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (the Trust), the positive outcomes are felt by many people with other

disabilities. The Trust is able to sway public policy by offering grant funding that is cost effective, person centered, and uses best practices. The SILC has been able to work with the Trust to ensure independent living opportunities are available to more individuals in Alaska including selection tool for selecting Conflict-Free Case Managers and a program for the transition of individuals who are in assisted living homes and would rather be living in less restrictive environments. The SILC is an Ex-Officio member of the Alaska Brain Injury Network. The SILC is also working with Alaska Long Term Ombudsman office on issues around emergency planning and transitioning individuals out of nursing homes and assistive living homes. And finally, the SILC Executive Director, the Chair, and a member of the DSE team all serve on the Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board (CBTAB) which works to improve the transportation options for the general population as well as many specific groups including those with disabilities. The SILC is working with the CPTAB on accessible taxis and non-emergency medical transportation using Medicare and Medicaid.

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

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

In addition, the SILC and the DSE collaborates and coordinates with, or will coordinate with in the future, the following agencies:

Non-profits, coalitions and other organizations:

- 4A?s (Alaska Aids Awareness Association)
- AgeNet (a trade association for senior providers)
- Alaska Association of Development Disabilities (AADD)
- Alaska Brain Injury Network (ABIN)
- Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Alaska Deaf Council
- Alaska FASD Partnership

- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC)
- Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC)
- Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA)
- Alaska Peer Support Consortium
- Alaska Safety Planning and Empowerment Network (ASPEN)
- Anchorage Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Association of People Supporting People First (APSE) ? Alaska Chapter
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- ATLA ? Assistive Technology of Alaska
- Bridges Program (deaf navigator program)
- Center for Blind and Visually Impaired
- Center for Psycho-Social Development
- Consortia for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR)
- Disability Law Center
- Equal Rights Center
- Fairbanks Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Foraker Group
- Functional and Access Needs Committee on Emergency Preparedness
- Independent Living Research Utilization (ILRU)
- Juneau Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- Mat Su Coalition on Housing and Homelessness
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- National Council on Independent Living

- Northwest ADA Center
- Red Cross ? Alaska Division
- Region X SILC Group
- SILC Congress
- Salvation Army ? Alaska Division
- Standing Together Against Rape (STAR)
- Stone Soup Group (Parent Training and Information Center)
- Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Consortia
- United Way (Alaska Chapters)

United States Government:

- Administration on Community Living
- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Disability Core Advisory Group
- Internal Revenue Service ? SPEC Office (Anchorage)

State of Alaska:

- University of Alaska, Center for Human Development (UCEDD),

Partners in Policymaking

- Department of Administration, ADA Compliance Program
- Department of Labor and Workforce Development

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (SILC ex-officio)

Division of Business Partnerships

Employment Security Division

Workforce Investment Board

State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee

- Department of Health and Social Services

Division of Behavioral Health

Division of Health Care Services

Office of Children's Services

Division of Public Assistance

Division of Senior and Disability Services (SILC ex-officio)

Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education

Commission on Aging

Alaska Mental Health Board

Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Council

Long Term Care Advisory Council

Long Term Care Ombudsman

- Department of Military and Veteran's affairs

Division of Homeland Security

Department of Revenue

- The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

- Department of Transportation and Public Facilities,

Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board

- Civil Rights Office

And Local Governments throughout the state.

1.6 Coordination of Services

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and

local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

Coordination and collaboration with other service providers, individuals, agencies and organizations serving OIB and visually impaired Alaskans will be ongoing.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind

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

The DSE will work with the OIB grant administrator (DVR) to ensure Older Alaskans who are blind are included in the IL grants. DVR will contract with the CILs to provide services in the same manner as was done in the past.

In such a large, expansive state all contractors, especially CILs, collaborate and work closely with other agencies and individuals to provide services and conduct outreach to underserved areas and populations. Through the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program, services are coordinated with Optometrists, Nursing Homes, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Senior Centers, Lions Clubs, Talking Book Libraries, Public Health Agencies, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, and a multitude of other service providers.

Coordination and collaboration with other service providers, individuals, agencies and organizations serving OIB and visually impaired Alaskans will be ongoing.

Particular emphasis will be placed upon the OIB independent living goals outlined in the Alaska State Independent Living Plan 2017 to 2019, as follows:

- a) Ensure the involvement of OIB in all aspects of program development, implementation and evaluation.
- b) Coordinate fiscal and programmatic resources and develop additional resources to provide independent living services to Alaskans who are OIB.
- c) Provide activities to promote community awareness, involvement and assistance regarding OIB issues and the availability of independent living services for OIB or visually impaired.
- d) Conduct outreach efforts to serve those who are unserved or underserved and those that reside in rural and remote areas.
- e) Provide an array of IL services to OIB Alaskans in their home communities.

The four contractors are:

1. The Alaska Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, (South Central Alaska)
2. Access Alaska, (CIL), Fairbanks, (Interior and Northern Alaska)
3. Independent Living Center, Homer (Kenai Peninsula)
4. Southeast Alaska Independent Living, (Southeast Alaska)

Contractors continue to utilize technology to reach and identify eligible individuals in rural areas. Two contractors have purchased webcams to better communicate with their staff and consumers in their satellite offices. Another contractor became a member of a group of Senior Agency Providers who decided to conduct outreach to seniors who reside in Senior/Disabled Housing Complexes. They met in three complexes and shared much information with the seniors who reside there. The seniors in attendance appreciated this format as the provider had come to them with information, rather than the seniors having to seek out appropriate services and providers. Another contractor partnered with Tlingit and Haida tribes of Southeast Alaska, and worked with their Elders and Caregiver Services program. As a result, they identified many older individuals challenged with low vision issues and provided them with information/education on low vision aides and assistive technology that has enhanced the quality of their lives and increased their independence.

Presentations are made and brochures are distributed at a variety of health fairs and senior centers throughout the state.

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

2.1 Scope and Extent

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

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	No	Yes	Yes
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	No	Yes	Yes
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities)	No	Yes	Yes
Rehabilitation technology	No	Yes	Yes
Mobility training	No	Yes	Yes
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	No	Yes	Yes

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	Yes	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	Yes	Yes
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	No	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	No	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	Yes	Yes
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	No	Yes	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	No	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	No	No	Yes
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	No	Yes	Yes
Individual and group social and recreational services	No	Yes	Yes
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	No	Yes	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities	No	Yes	Yes

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	No	Yes	Yes
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	No	Yes	No

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

Ships and planes are some of the ways that staff of independent living centers get to areas of the state to provide itinerant services either to one individual or to the whole community. The use of ships and planes isn't a luxury, but a necessary part of how we travel in Alaska. Another difference is the mode of travel is often very dependent on where in Alaska the person lives, for instance, in Southeast Alaska, it is common for individuals to use both ferries and small planes to get to and from villages and cities in this predominantly road-less region peppered with islands. Whereas in the Northern tier of Alaska, it is more likely that small planes, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), or snow machines are used to get people and goods to small communities. The travel costs associated with the itinerant visits are high. Unfortunately, in these times of static or decreased funding, the visits are happening less frequently. In response, the IL Network is strategizing ways to increase its presence across the state through social media and the USPS when needed.

The Alaska Independent Living Network added a fifth core service, de-institutionalization, years before the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act made it a nationally required core service. The addition of youth in transition was also an easy to accept addition; all of the CILs had already been working on youth in transition issues through grants dealing with recreation and with career exploration.

Service Provisions priorities related to the SPIL objectives include:

? Core Services

? In Alaska, having personal transportation is vital. There are three cities with a traditional bus service, a few more have a hybrid system, where some service is available in a limited fashion and the rest of the cities, villages, and towns have no public transit available. If you are a person with a disability, you may be able to receive transportation services or vouchers, but even those will not provide enough rides to participate in community as some individuals may want. Transportation is a big issue here. We will be focusing on accessible taxis, rides/sidewalks, and rural planes. We will also be watching and paying attention to the reform of non-emergency medical transportation in Alaska. Another issue that will loom large in the short-term (at least for the SILC) is the operational support that will be given to the Alaska Mobility Coalition (AMC).

AMC is Alaska's only community transit advocacy organization and needed some short term assistance to determine its next step. Since transportation, specifically, community transportation is so vital, the SILC has agreed to Mentor this organization to its next stage.

? Housing is another ?must have? in Alaska; unfortunately, not all individuals with disabilities have housing. In fact, a large subset do not. Another group has inaccessible housing, with some rooms being completely out of reach and some being unable to leave without assistance (assistance that has gone to work). Luckily, all of our CILs have interest and the skill to help individuals make their houses more accessible for now and for the future. By making ?aging in place? renovations, the consumer can plan on remaining at home instead of having to move into a more restrictive housing.

? The SILC and the CILs have been working on emergency planning for the past three years. The SILC partnered with the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education to work on tailored ?continuation of operation? plans for service providers. Now, the SILC will be partnering with the Long Term Care Ombudsman office to work on improving the response and continuation of operation plans for assisted living facilities. Additionally, the SILC will be partnering with FEMA, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and several other organizations to create a better understanding of the roles each organization plays during an emergency and when the state is in a ?steady? state with no emergency. Similarly, the disability community will, during steady states, explain various ways that accessibility can be impacted, as well as working in the emergency operations center during emergencies.

The Independent Living Network works well with the assistive technology service provider. Partnering on displays, demonstrations and projects, such as emergency management and voting access. Education, awareness building, and outreach around assistive technology and durable medical goods that would increase the independence of the consumer.

? Partnering with vocational rehabilitation counselors (both state and tribal), skills training programs, and self-employment/microenterprise opportunities to increase the number of consumers who are working and/or volunteering. By working and/or volunteering, consumers are able to be part of a community, contribute towards a project/objective, and increase self-esteem.

? To outreach to specific underserved populations, the IL Network will connect with civil right groups, cultural organizations, and other community groups. The network will continue to provide disability awareness to any group that would like that information.

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

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and

- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

The ILC serving the Gulf Coast and SAIL charge nominal fees for adaptive recreation opportunities. Financial need is applied uniformly and written documentation is available and maintained.

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

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

Our new DSE, the Alaska Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, provides a plethora of grants to provide community based services to those who have significant disabilities and/or are Elders who are low-income/vulnerable. It has been noted that the Independent Living Network provides services that complement the services provided by other grants/grantees. The Part B, Part C funding will be used by the Centers for Independent Living. Further, the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will provide funding for the SILC via the Sec. 101(a) (18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) for the next three years. The new agency, that is Alaska's DSE, will continue to help the part B center.

The OIB funds given to the non-CIL provider are based on the goals and objectives outlined by the DSE. This enables the DSE is to administer and monitor the delivery of OIB programs. The DSE monitors these contracts and reviews consumer case files during site visits.

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

Each CIL has policies and procedures that define eligibility to the IL program. The contracts with the state also define eligibility for services and require eligibility documents be maintained in each case file. The DSE will closely monitor the CIL contracts; additionally, the DSE will perform Site Reviews on a regular basis (proposed every two years) to ensure CIL staff are reviewing eligibility requirements before providing services as well as examine the consumer service records. The DSE will also perform staff interview during onsite reviews.

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

3.1 Existing Network

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

Below is the breakdown of how Alaska will be served. Each CIL is responsible for outreach and expansion efforts (in conjunction with the SILC and the DSE) in designated census regions:

Access Alaska (funded by Part B, Part C, State and other funds)

- (Fairbanks) serves the North Slope Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, and provides itinerant services to the Northern and Eastern portion of the unorganized borough (which includes areas not part of an incorporated borough). There are slightly more than 100,000 people in this region of the state; they additionally serve another 7,000 community members with itinerant services

- (Anchorage) serves the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Municipality of Anchorage (most populated city in Alaska), with itinerant services offered to the Southwestern portion of the unorganized borough. This CIL serves the largest population center in Alaska. The Anchorage/Mat Su region has over 400,000 residents.

Arctic Access (funded by Part B, State and other funds)

- Serves the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Nome census areas. The number of individuals living in the Northwest Arctic Borough and the Nome census area is just over 17,000. There are small hubs with many villages.

ILC (funded by Part B, Part C, State and other funds)

--Serves the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Valdez-Cordova Census regions. The number of individuals living in this section of the state is about 58,000.

SAIL (funded by Part B, Part C, State and other funds)

- Serves the boroughs of: Haines, Ketchikan as well as the City and Borough of Sitka, Juneau. Additionally, itinerant services are offered in Petersburg Borough, Municipality of Skagway, the City and Borough of Wrangell and the City and Borough of Yakutat. Areas of the unorganized borough served itinerantly by SAIL are Hoonah-Angoon Census Area and the Prince of Wales/Hyder Census Area. Over 61,000 individuals live in these regions of the state.

In FY 2015, there were over 4,600 consumers served. Statewide, the age-range served most often by the Alaska IL Network were all adults between the ages of 25-60+. That age group is large because it is actually two age groups 25-59 and 60 and older. Statewide, the vast majority of ethnicities served were Caucasian, Alaska Native/American Indian, and those who selected "two or more races". This is similar to the breakdown of the population of Alaska.

3.2 Expansion of Network

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

Alaska's road system is very sparse. While three of the four largest population centers are on the road system, the fourth most populous city in Alaska is Juneau which can't be reached by car. Anchorage and the surrounding area are approximately half of the total population. Besides the largest cities of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau, all of the other cities in Alaska are under 10,000 people. The majority of cities are off the main road system and may use a boat, plane, snow machine (snowmobile), or all-terrain vehicle. This means that if a person lives more than 50 miles away from a Center for Independent Living (CIL), then there is less possibility of the individual knowing what a CIL is and therefore can't make contact with an IL staff member. This is not for lack of trying, each CIL schedules visits to outlying areas as often as feasible. When the IL Specialist/Advocate makes an itinerant visit, it could be by boat, plane, or vehicle.

There are four CILs sharing the responsibility for the largest state in the union geographically. If additional Part C funds become available, then the Alaska IL Network will use the funding formula listed below. To open a CIL in rural Alaska will take significant commitment and resources, however, there will be some discussions in at least one rural hub about how to bring the independent living philosophy to the area. Because we can not commit to the creation of a new center, we are instead going to be looking for ways to integrate independent living into existing services. Often, it is the service providers who are keen on having independent living in the community. Nevertheless, we will still need to hear from the residents with disabilities (or their support networks) before there is any formal partnership agreements.

There is a great need for Independent Living services in southwestern portion of the state, but to be able to ensure a CIL would be successful requires enough funding to pay the higher costs of utilities, personnel costs, and travel. With the current funding levels, we do not see any expansion happening in the near future; to maintain another CIL would require at least another \$250,000. We know a CIL can be maintained at a lower funding level since that currently happens in Alaska (\$200,000 approximately). Because of the lower funding level, the Part B center in Alaska hasn't been able to fund raise, write for grants, or partner with other agencies on system change initiatives to any great extent. In other words, starting a CIL on a shoe string should be avoided at all costs. The Alaska funding formula listed in this SPIL outlines the steps taken to ensure the Part B center is able to receive funding that is the same percentage of the organization's total budget. This method works in the CIL's favor by acknowledging the costs associated with working completely off the road system.

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

Age Ranges:

- Seniors with disabilities: this group is the fast growing population in Alaska, thus we must do continual outreach and marketing
- Youth with disabilities: with the new emphasis on youth in transition, the CILs must encourage youth to utilize the services at CILs

Disability type:

- People with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder/fetal alcohol syndrome (FASD/FAS): Alaska has one of the highest rates of FASD/FAS and individual affected would benefit from participation in IL.
- People with traumatic brain injuries (TBI): Alaska also has one of the highest rates of head injuries, we are partnering specifically with Alaska Brain Injury Network.
- People with mental illness: Alaskans with mental illness face discrimination in many of organizations, we are working to increase the knowledge of CILs within the mental illness/survivor community.
- Deaf (and hard of hearing) Alaskans: Deaf and hard of hearing are the most prevalent disability in Alaska. It is important to ensure individuals receive the support she needs too

Race/Nationality:

- African-Americans with disabilities
- Asian-Americans with disabilities
- Hispanics with disabilities
- Alaska Natives with disabilities

The Independent Living Network believes that Alaska is a state without any unserved populations, but plenty of underserved locations. The reasoning for this approach is because everyone in Alaska would be able to get information and referral services from a CIL in Alaska.

In 2011, the SILC approved the Hub concept as the organizational concept for expansion of independent living services into underserved regions of the state. The SILC also adopted a set of funding principles to promote independent living philosophy and increase the profile of the IL Network in underserved locations. The principles are:

Maintain existing funding levels for those centers for independent living that meet the standards and assurances set forth in the Rehab Act and the State Plan for Independent Living.

If funding levels increase:

1. Bring all four CILs up to 50% of funding needed to fully serve each region.
2. After 50% of serving each region of that state has been reached, the Alaska IL Network will expand into prioritized, underserved areas as funding allows. These underserved areas will be targeted jointly by the SILC, DSE, and the CILs.
3. Once expansion has occurred, then parity will continue to be addressed.

During that same time period, the Alaska IL Network adopted a process for expansion. This process doesn't restrict the Alaska IL Network to only these steps. The steps include, but aren't limited to, the following:

1. The SILC, IL partners, CILs, and the DSE will secure funding for expansion of IL services into underserved areas.
2. The SILC, IL partners, CILs, and/or the DSE will conduct outreach in underserved regions to generate awareness, support, and to gauge interest in adopting the IL philosophy.
3. The SILC, IL partners, CILs, and the DSE will implement a targeted process for expansion of IL services into underserved communities.

We recognize the enormity of our task. For Alaska to become fully served would mean independent living services would be available to a geographical area as large as the next three biggest states combined (that is Montana, California, and Texas). We will continue our efforts to serve more Alaskans. The Alaska Independent Living Network will continue to work together with our partners in rural Alaska. Most of the cities in Alaska are under 1,500 people. This makes marketing especially tricky, and is why the Alaska Independent Living Network concentrates on getting out to the communities. This outreach allows the individual with disabilities to learn what independent living services are and how the services can increase the opportunity to continue to live at home, not hundreds of miles away in an institution. Outreach is one part of the awareness campaign, the other is through communications. Communication comes in many forms, including, but not limited to, using social media, contests, websites, workshops, and word of mouth. Word of mouth, including on social media, is our best tool.

If a hub community shows an interest in using the independent living philosophy, then the SILC specifically will begin conversations with the Elders, people with disabilities, family members,

and service providers. The most important of these conversations is with the individuals with disabilities. Service providers are often the biggest backers for bringing the IL philosophy to a community, but we will still wait until the consumers are also interested in the concept. In whatever form this infusion of independent living philosophy takes, it will be imperative to ensure from the beginning that the decision making process is consumer led and community driven.

Since the current fiscal climate in Alaska is austere, the possibility of having enough funding to open a new center is limited at best. While the concept of bringing the IL philosophy to a community is the most desired situation, the current fiscal climate limits the opportunity to bring the concept of IL to rural Alaska. However, if there is a community interested in creating a CIL, then the SILC will contact the community to gauge its interest level. The SILC will request the community provide the IL Network with a feasibility study and a business plan. The goal is to ensure the new CIL will be able to sustain in lean economic times while still providing the core services, meeting the standards and indicators as described in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

The following statements are indicators for a sustainable hub CIL:

- A hub office can be initiated and supported by a group of citizens or by an existing organization, but the office must be established and maintained as a satellite office of the region's existing CIL.
- The hub community must recommend a local, community representative to serve on the board of directors for the CIL that is responsible for that region.
- The hub must meet standards and compliance indicators, per the Rehabilitation Act.
- Delivery of IL services is to an identified underserved region.
- A hub is the central part of a wheel where the spokes come together. In the context of communities, a hub is a central gathering place connected by transportation, culture, and services. A community would need to describe how it meets the criteria of a hub community and identify the outlying communities it intends to serve.
- Demonstrate strong community support in the form of partner and legislative support, as well as match funding or in-kind contributions such as office space or staff time.
- Demonstrate IL need by needs assessment, anecdotal information.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of IL and the needs in the hub and outlying communities.
- Present a clear plan for fulfilling the requirements of year one (see next section for details) and paint a clear picture for how IL service delivery might unfold in their region.

The SILC will continue to be the organization that sends out and receives the consumer satisfaction surveys and any survey done on a statewide level. Surveys are a good way to get a point-in-time picture of that specific topic. Surveys will be done to gauge interest level of bringing IL to a community, the knowledge level on a specific topic, and as a measurement tool.

The IL Network will continue to work on securing funding for outreach and expansion. The directors of the CILs and the SILC will create an overall picture of how the IL Network did during the past year. The network will also work with our partners on joint issues and concerns (e.g., community transportation).

The IL Network will look for opportunities to partner with agencies working with an underserved population (e.g., youth in transition, Asian Americans). When working with an agency or community, the SILC and CILs will provide information and referral services, partner on specific projects, and determine how best to get information about IL and the CILs to the community.

3.3 Section 723 States Only

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

N/A

Alaska is not a 723 state.

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

N/A

Alaska is not a 723 state.

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

4.1 Administrative Support Services

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.1 Resource plan

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

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

For more information click the icon.

The SILC of Alaska is a federally mandated council with a board appointed by the governor. The SILC of Alaska is a non-profit, and works with the DSE (Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services) and the Centers for Independent Living to further the goals and objectives of SPIL. The SILC works in conjunction with the CILs to provide outreach to rural communities. The SILC will be integral if/when the IL Network expands and complete specific course of action. The Council collaborates with other non-profits, state agencies, the protection and advocacy organization, the university center for excellence in developmental disabilities, and other organizations to complete the goals and objectives identified in this document. Additionally, the SILC has a relationship with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

The SILC maintains a staff and office that is commiserate to the efforts needed to accomplish work of the Council. The SILC has a staff of 1.5 FTE; with the Executive Director being full time staff and the Administrative Assistant working no more than 30 hours a week. The SILC contracts with the Foraker Group, another non-profit, to meet its accounting needs. The Foraker Group works on leadership, accounting, and strategic planning for Alaskan non-profits.

For the fiscal year 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017), the SILC will use the following funding:

\$137,997 (Innovation and Expansion funds)

\$62,000 (State funds)

For fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018), the SILC will use the following funding:

\$137,997 (Innovation and Expansion funds)

\$62,000 (State funds)

For fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019) the SILC will use the following funding:

\$137,997 (Innovation and Expansion funds)

\$62,000 (State funds)

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

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

The SILC maintains staff and an office commensurate to the efforts necessary to carry out the work of the SILC. The Executive Director drafts a budget in concert with the SILC Treasurer. The budget for the upcoming year is reviewed and approved by the SILC during the last meeting of the current fiscal year. The Executive Director has been given the authority (by the Council) to run the day to day business of the SILC. The SILC staff work in the confines of not only the SPIL, but also within the boundaries established by policies, procedures, bylaws, and works in accordance with state and federal laws. In addition to the contracted accounting services, the SILC also contracts with a Certified Public Accounting firm to review budget expenditures each year. The budget is expended to accomplish the goals, objectives, and activities of the SPIL and to ensure that the SILC is able to review how IL is implemented in urban, rural, and remote Alaska. The SILC budget is based on the same fiscal year as the State of Alaska. The SILC and the DSE granted the Executive Director and the Executive Committee the authority to make limited financial decisions, if needed, outside the approved budget. Specifically, revisions between line items totaling less than 10% of the entire contract are permitted. Revisions totaling over 10% of the entire contract require a majority vote of the SILC and written approval of the DSE.

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

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

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

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

5.2 Establishment and Placement

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

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

5.3 Appointment and Composition

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

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

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

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

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

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

The Executive Director, at least annually, will make a written evaluation of the effectiveness of each employee in carrying out duties included in his/her job description, review the evaluation with the employee, and place a copy of the evaluation in the employee's personnel file. Each employee shall sign the evaluation to denote that (s) he has reviewed the evaluation with the Director or designee. The signature does not necessarily mean agreement with the evaluation,

and the employee may write a response to the evaluation, which will also be placed in the employee's personnel file.

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

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

Part II: Narrative: Section 6 - Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing

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

Each CIL in the network is required to maintain compliance with the contract requirements, including, but not limited to, compliance with the Rehab Act's Section 725 Standards and Assurances and the following federal requirements:

- Personnel Administration (Sec. 12 (c), 704 (m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.23)

- Personnel Development (Sec. 12 (c), 704 (m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.24)

- Affirmative Action (Sec. 704 (m) (2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.31)

- Nondiscrimination (34 CFR 76.500)

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

Each CIL has policies and procedures in place to ensure, to the maximum extent possible, full inclusion of all individuals, regardless of disability or level of English proficiency.

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

All centers provide ongoing training, using independent resources that are available through outside sources, such as ILNET, ILRU, NCIL, The Trust Training Cooperative, and others.

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

The Alaska SILC, DSE, and CILs believe that all persons are entitled to equal employment opportunity and do not discriminate against its employees or applicants on any of the above mentioned bases, on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. This policy shall be applied without regard to any individual's gender, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, pregnancy, age, marital status, medical condition, and/or disability. Equal employment opportunity will be extended to all persons and all aspects of the employer-employee relationship. Employment advertisements for all centers contain language that encourages individuals with disabilities to apply, and are circulated within the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and all partners of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

All centers have board-approved accounting policies in place. These policies delineate allocation and ensure compliance with EDGAR and Circulars specific to accounting. SILC of Alaska contracts, on a yearly basis, with an independent Certified Public Accounting firm for an independent review of the fiscal status of the SILC.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

All CILs have accounting policies and procedures to ensure compliance with 34 CFR 364.35. Each CIL in Alaska is required to maintain compliance with the requirements listed in the contract with the DSE (including compliance with the Rehab Act's Section 725) and all of the following federal requirements:

- Financial Record Keeping (Sec. 704 (M) (4) (A) and (B) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.35)

- Access to Financial Records (Sec. 704 (M) (4) and (5); 34 CFR 364.37)

- Financial Records (Sec. 704 (M) (4) (D); 34 CFR 364.36)

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

In addition to the above mentioned accounting policies, procedures, and recognition of federal requirements, the CILs follow any requirements as listed in the contracts with the DSE. The SILC works with the DSE to ensure that CILs are in compliance by participating in the CIL site reviews.

The following are also provided on a yearly basis:

Annual 704 Report: In concert with the DSE, the SILC helps with the writing of the annual 704 report, Part I. The final report must be signed by the SILC Chair and the Director of the DSE before it is submitted to RSA. These reports, along with the quarterly 704 reports are available to the SILC members as well as the general public.

Annual Reports: The CILS and the SILC will create a document that highlights the summation of work done by the SILC and CILs. This document will be created for the board members, the general public, legislators, and the Governor of Alaska. These reports vary in length and content, but in general, are the summation of the work done by the SILC and the CILs, including information previously reported in the 704 report and stories from consumers who have gained increased independence because of the work of the IL Network.

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

The Commissioner, the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representative have access to records, policies, and procedures to ensure compliance and maintenance as required in 34 CFR 364.37.

6.4 Eligibility

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

All CILs in Alaska include information related to eligibility in their consumer service records. All CILs have policies and procedures surrounding the definition and application of eligibility requirements (per 34 CFR 364.40).

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

All of the CILs in Alaska provide information to consumers about their rights, including the right to be referred to other service providers and programs as requested.

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

All CILs in Alaska determine a consumer's eligibility before making the individual a consumer of the CIL. All CILs maintain documentation of the individual's eligibility.

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

All CILs in Alaska have policies and procedures to ensure that no one is denied services based on age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability. CILs do not discriminate against applicants or consumers on the basis of the above listed criteria.

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

Eligibility for IL Services is not based on residency. If an individual is present in Alaska, then s/he can apply for services; eligibility is strictly based on 34 CFR 364.41.

6.5 Independent Living Plans

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

All CILs in Alaska work with the consumer to develop an IL Plan in compliance with regulations listed above. This notifies the consumer that an IL Plan will be developed and placed in the Consumer Service Record, unless it is waived by the individual. If waived, the waiver will be placed in the individual's Consumer Service Record.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

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

The IL Network in Alaska notifies consumers of their rights under the law to appeal to the Client Assistance Program. Each CIL and the SILC keep copies of the Client Assistance Program brochures in their office. The SILC website has the CAP brochure on its website. Each Consumer Service Record includes documentation that the individual was informed of his/her rights to appeal to CAP.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

All CILs in Alaska have developed policies and procedures to ensure the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a) are met. All personal information, including but not limited to, photographs and lists of names, are safeguarded to ensure confidentiality.

Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

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

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1, Objective 1 (Transportation) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide short-term operational support to AMC to include staffing and logistical support 2. Administer satisfaction survey to at least 3 stakeholder groups annually 3. Administer questionnaire that explores single pass ?barriers? in each target city 4. Documentation of advocacy efforts for accessible taxis in each region
Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1, Objective 2 (Housing) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct Pre/post online survey of housing agency in each region at the beginning and end of each year 2. Completion of log of collaboration activities with each region?s housing agency and combine entries into annual aggregate 3. Annual tally of number/% of new housing starts supported with public funds that are accessible
Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1, Objective 3 (Employment) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual comparison of aggregate data from Alaska CILs 2. Annual comparison of aggregate data from Alaska CILs 3. Annual comparison of aggregate data from Alaska CILs 4. Annual summary of activities with state and federal legislatures 5. Documentation of joint board meetings attended

Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1, Objective 4 (Access to Health Information and Services) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual summary and report to SILC board 2. Annual summary and report to SILC board 3. Annual summary and report to SILC board
Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1, Objective 5 (Assistive Technology) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documented changes in state Medicaid AT policy that promote increased access to AT 2. Pre-annual post survey of AT consumers to determine increase in awareness
Inclusion Goal	<p>Goal 1 Objective 6 (Access) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual summary of responses 2. Annual summary of responses 3. Request data from Alaska Dept. of Transportation as to number of AK. Urban safe lanes for mobility impaired. Compare annual numbers. 4. Annual summary of responses
IL Network Goal	<p>Goal 2, Objective 1 (Consumer Satisfaction) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number/% of Consumer Satisfaction Surveys returned each quarter 2. Number/% of Consumer Satisfaction Surveys returned each quarter 3. Number/% of Consumer Satisfaction Surveys returned each quarter
IL Network Goal	<p>Goal 2, Objective 2 (Awareness) Evaluation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pre-Post survey of communities expressing interest in having a CIL 2. Annual comparison of statewide IL aggregate funding total 3. Increased awareness as shown by increased number of calls specifically about IL services in Alaska 4. CIL staff pre-post survey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Pre and Post survey of sister boards/partners 6. Pre-post survey of conference attendees 7. Document information disseminated and IL specific trainings held 8. Annual creation of Info-graphic and documented dissemination 9. Creation of a strategic/sustainability plan for the SILC
<p>SILC Goal</p>	<p>Goal 3, Objective 1, (Financial Stability) Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Form 1023 and related forms are accepted by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. 2. The SILC application is accepted by the Pick Click Give management corporation. 3. The SILC receives, by the third year, donations from at least 13 donors.
<p>SILC Goal</p>	<p>Goal 3, Objective 2 (Increased IL) Evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find no less than two options for developing a foundation to improve/increase IL in Alaska by year 2 of the SPIL. 2. Find no less than three opportunities to bring IL Philosophy to rural Alaska.

Part II: Narrative: Section 8 - State-Imposed Requirements

8 State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

Alaska adopted deinstitutionalization as a core service years ago; we are pleased to see it was added to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. We will continue to work the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Alaska Division of Senior and Disability Services to coordinate funding for individuals to use when moving to a less restrictive residence with the IL Network.

CIL Consumer Service Fund: All CILs will document the amount of funds spent annually for the direct purchase of requested consumer services. The fund can be a combination of IL funds, unrestricted funds, and/or other pass through funds from different contracts. CILSs will use a line item in the budget for the documentation.