

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

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Arkansas

Agency: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0073-01](#) 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.

Arkansas Rehabilitation 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.

Department of Human Services-Division of Services for the Blind

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.

Arkansas State Independent Living Council

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 Alan McClain, Commissioner and Katy Morris, Director.

Section 2: SPIL Development

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

Section 3: Independent Living Services

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

Section 4: Eligibility

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

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

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

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 8: Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

Section 9: Signatures

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

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

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name Adren Duncan

Title Chairperson of the ARSILC

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/27/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Alan McClain

Title Commissioner

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/27/2016

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 Katy Morris

Title Director

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/27/2016

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: Goal of the ARSILC

Goal Description:

The goal of the Arkansas State Independent Living Council is to promote independence, including freedom of choice and full inclusion into the mainstream of society for all Arkansans with disabilities.

Goal Name: Goal of the Centers for Independent Living

Goal Description:

The goal of the Centers for Independent Living is to provide services, support and advocacy that enable people with significant disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities. The Centers strive to achieve full integration of persons with disabilities into the mainstream of society. The Centers work to increase people with disabilities' awareness and knowledge of the importance of their own personal power to direct the course of their own lives and independence. Centers promote the philosophy of Consumer Control.

Goal Name: Goal of the Division of Services for the Blind

Goal Description:

The Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) is dedicated to the independence of Arkansans who are blind or severely visually impaired and is committed to the principle that these individuals have the right to make informed choices regarding where they live, where they work, how they participate in the community, and how they interact with others.

The DSB goal is to work in partnership with these Arkansans by assisting them in obtaining the information they need to make informed choices, and by providing them with access to services that increase their opportunities to live as they choose.

Within the constraints of state and federal laws and based on available funds, DSB fulfills its goal through assisting Arkansans who are blind or severely visually impaired to live as independently as possible through the development of skills, accommodations, or adaptations that are necessary to perform all activities of daily living.

DSB offers independent living services under Chapter 1 of the Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act through its ten field offices throughout Arkansas. Information and referral; assessment; mobility; rehabilitation teaching; low vision services; counseling; skill instruction; limited transportation; and adaptive aides and devices are provided to eligible individuals. IL services are provided to homemakers in accordance with their Individualized Plans for Employment. DSB has contracted its Older Individuals who are Blind program to World Services for the Blind (WSB), which assesses OIB consumers and develops IL plans with them. These services are available in all 75 counties. DSB partners with the Arkansas State Independent Living Council (ARSILC) and the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) to provide independent living core services.

Goal Name: Goal of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Goal Description:

The goal of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) is to provide services resulting in meaningful employment and independence for Arkansans living with disabilities. ARS strives to provide independent living services that enhance the ability of an eligible individual with a significant disability to live more independently and function within his/her family or community and, if appropriate, secure and maintain appropriate employment. The overall goal of ARS for the SILS program is to promote the integration, and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

Goal Name: Goal of SILS

Goal Description:

The SILC, CILs and SILS will work together to assist Arkansans with disabilities to establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle.

Goal Name: Goal of the CILs and SILS

Goal Description:

The CILs, SILC and DSE will increase activities to reach individuals with disabilities who are underserved and underrepresented in the IL network.

Goal Name: Goal of the CILs, SILC and SILS

Goal Description:

The SILS, CILs, and SILC will seek opportunities to build capacity and sustain expansions.

Goal Name: Goal of the CILs, SILC and SILS

Goal Description:

The SILC, CILS and SILS will coordinate to promote systems change through advocacy, training and educational opportunities.

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
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of SILS</p>	<p>GOAL 1:</p> <p>The SILC, CILs and the SILS will work together to assist Arkansans with disabilities to establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle.</p> <p>Objective 1.1: The SILS and CILs collaborate with key stakeholders and policymakers to increase the availability of services with access to public support programs, advocacy services, home health care and assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>The CILs in collaboration with the SILC will conduct roundtable discussions at least once a quarter with stakeholders and policy makers to address the need for integration of services to promote independent living.</p> <p>? Activities: 1) Facilitate partnerships and communication efforts among non-profits and state and local government agencies to create best practices and strategies to address the need for services and supports that increase community integration. 2) The CILs and Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) will continue to explore and collaborate in eliminating barriers and deinstitutionalization by increasing education and awareness on transition from nursing homes. 3) To prevent institutionalization and more restrictive environments, CILs will provide information, referral services and supports to individuals with disabilities to remain in their communities of choice.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

<p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of SILS</p>	<p>Objective 1.2: Job Seekers with disabilities have an awareness of employment opportunities, workplace expectations and access to job and soft skills training.</p> <p>1)Fifteen contacts per year between CILs and community groups on training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. 2) Two soft skills and employment readiness trainings conducted at CILs per year.</p> <p>Activities: 1) Coordinate with the local Workforce agency and other community groups to collaborate on training and referral opportunities for individuals with disabilities seeking to enter the workforce. 2) Coordinate with local employment programs such as Arkansas Work with Me Program and HIRE to promote employment of Arkansans with disabilities. 3) Implement and continue to conduct soft skills, workplace expectations and employment readiness training at CILs.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Objective 1.3: Individuals with disabilities, rehabilitation counselors, and CILs have increased access to, and are informed of new innovations in Assistive Technology (AT).</p> <p>Measurable indicators: 1) Have at least one AT expert speaker or exhibit at the IL conference. 2) Conduct at least three AT trainings each fiscal year. 3) Publish five articles featuring AT provided by the SILC or CIL by social media, newsletter or website.</p> <p>?Activities: 1) Highlight innovations in technologies at the statewide IL conference. 2) Feature any new AT research and breakthroughs through social media, newsletters and emails. 3) Provide training to IL counselors and rehabilitation counselors at the cross-disability IL conference on any emerging AT.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of the Division of</p>	<p>Objective 1.4: Collaborate on Emergency Preparedness Action Plans to include individuals with disabilities. 1) Plan for emergency response and maintenance services for Arkansans with significant disabilities in the aftermath of a disaster.</p> <p>The CILs will provide emergency preparedness trainings at least once a fiscal year to educate individuals with disabilities on action plans for</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

<p>Services for the Blind</p>	<p>emergencies. Participation will be increased by 5% each fiscal year.</p> <p>Activities: Conduct forums and/or trainings with state entities, community groups and emergency personnel on how to respond to or assist a person with a disability in the aftermath of a disaster and emergency situations. 2) Provide an emergency response training session for individuals with disabilities at the IL conference. 3) Provide information received from the National Council on Independent Living, FEMA and American Red Cross to individuals with disabilities via social media and websites at least once a quarter on discussions or new developments in emergency preparedness.</p>		
<p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of the Division of Services for the Blind</p>	<p>GOAL 2:</p> <p>The CILs , SILC and DSE will increase activities to reach individuals with disabilities who are underserved and underrepresented in the IL network.</p> <p>Objective 2:1: Older Arkansans who are blind or have low vision receive IL training.</p> <p>Measurable indicators: Provide training to individuals who are blind and have low vision through workshops and collaboration with World Services for the Blind at least two times a fiscal year. 1) Conduct IL training sessions at the National Federation of the Blind Arkansas conference each fiscal year. 2) Provide an expert in the field to conduct a session at the statewide cross-disability IL conference.</p> <p>Activities: Conduct 20 outreach activities among CILs, Area Agency on Aging offices (AAAs), Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), DSB, WSB and other stakeholders to identify consumers to receive IL training.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Objective 2.2: Ensure that individuals who are deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind are aware of and have access to IL services.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) Ten programs and/or activities per fiscal year coordinated with and/or by the CILs, specifically targeted to the deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind communities.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

<p>Goal of the Division of Services for the Blind</p>	<p>Activities: 1) Facilitate connections, training opportunities, and IL programs among the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind communities, AAAs, DAAS and other community groups.</p>		
<p>Goal of SILS</p>	<p>Objective 2.3: Provide access to youth with disabilities who are transitioning toward community integration, employment, or higher education, which will include peer-support, and mentoring programs.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) Provide at least ten events collectively among CILs each fiscal year that will empower Arkansas youth with disabilities on leadership and the IL philosophy. 2) Increase by three percent youth with disabilities served by CILs annually (as compared to youth with disabilities served in FY15). 3) Identify ten young adults as emerging leaders in the IL community. 4) SILC and CILs will collaborate with ARS and the Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities by hosting forums to increase participation in the Arkansas Youth Leadership Forum on a yearly basis. 5) Invite an expert to conduct a session on youth transition at the statewide cross-disability IL conference.</p> <p>Activities: 1) Facilitate soft skills, social skills, and employment readiness training at CILs for youth. 2) CILs will establish peer support and mentoring programs to promote youth leadership. 3) Promote young advocates for leadership positions at CILs, non-profit organizations, and state boards. 4) Provide training on transition services for youth with significant disabilities through the Jump Start transition program sponsored by the Division of Services for the Blind, Youth Leadership Forum through ARS and HEROES program through D-RAC.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Objective 2.4: The CILs will initiate activities to improve outreach to the following populations: African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Asian Pacific Islanders, including the Marshallese.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) Provide outreach efforts to the African American, Hispanic/Latino, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islanders, including the Marshallese. 2) Participate in community activities that will impact the underserved and unserved by working with local communities and faith-based groups that provide outreach. 3) Coordinate and refer</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>individuals with disabilities to the appropriate agencies for assistance and needed IL services within the geographical area.</p> <p>Activities: 1) Provide technical assistance to facilitate training of agency counselors and the implementation of this activity involving the targeted populations. 2) Conduct two forums yearly to educate and train the diverse populations on the IL services and to get feedback on the needs. 3) Provide a needs assessment survey at the forums to gather statistical data.</p>		
<p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of SILS</p>	<p>GOAL 3:</p> <p>The SILS, CILs and SILC will seek opportunities to build capacity and sustain expansions.</p> <p>Objective 3.1: CILs partner with Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Area Agency on Aging offices (AAAs), and/or community groups and organizations to coordinate IL services within their communities.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) CILs will work closely with Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Area Agency on Aging offices(AAAs), and/or local authorities to collaborate on resources. 2) At least once a year, the CILs or the SILC, will contact the DAAS/Money Follows the Person (MFP) AAAs, and/or local authorities to create awareness of CIL resources and service offerings.</p> <p>Activities: 1) Create awareness of CILs presence in the community and the services they provide. 2) Offer CILs as a resource to DAAS/MFP, AAAs, and/or local groups along with other community partners. 3) Collaborate with DAAS, AAAs, and/or state agencies to assess needed services for consumers.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Goal of the ARSILC	<p>Objective 3.2: The SILC coordinates resource development by seeking outside funding opportunities to expand IL services.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) Identify at least two potential funding opportunities within the three-year plan to develop resources for outreach. 2) Collaborate with CILs, community stakeholders, and/or state</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>agencies to increase funding opportunities to meet the IL needs of individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Activities: 1) The SILC will research new funding opportunities to expand IL services. 2) The SILC will collaborate with CILs, community stakeholders, and/or agencies to increase funding opportunities to meet the IL needs of individuals with disabilities.</p>		
<p>Goal of the CILs, SILC and SILS</p>	<p>GOAL 4:</p> <p>The SILC, CILs and SILS will coordinate to promote systems change through advocacy, training and educational opportunities.</p> <p>Objective 4.1: The CILs in collaboration with the SILC and SILS will identify barriers to IL and will advocate for strategies that promote system change to better serve Arkansans with disabilities.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: The SILC in collaboration with the CILs will host two outreach activities each fiscal year and two community forums with unserved and undeserved groups in collaboration with community groups and organizations to identify barriers and needs within the surrounding areas of the state.</p> <p>Activities: 1) The SILC will host trainings that increase the public's awareness of domestic violence programs to increase the safety of communities for individuals with disabilities. 2) The SILC will attend at least one membership meeting a year hosted by the ACADV to enhance the knowledge base of best practices to better serve individuals with disabilities who are victims of domestic violence. 3) The SILC in collaboration with the CILS will conduct table discussions once a quarter with community partners and organizations in regards to promoting systems change.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p>	<p>Objective 4.2: The CILs and the SILC will report to state and federal agencies as required.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
<p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Measurable Indicators: 1) As mandated by the funding source, the CILs and SILC will provide reports.</p>		

	<p>Activities: 1) Coordinate data collection by working with new and existing software systems used at CILs. 2) Formulate unified descriptions of services with the input of the SILC and the CILs. 3) Facilitate work-group meetings with the CILs on reports and unified descriptions of services. 4) Develop a reporting schedule at the work-group sessions by SILC and CIL staff. 5) Hold discussions with the National Council on Independent Living and ACL on systems change. 6) The SILC will monitor legislation related to disability issues and inform the CILs and SILS of the results during the general session and special sessions during each fiscal year.</p>		
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Objective 4.3: The SILC in collaboration with the CILs will work to impart knowledge on the voting process and the rights of individuals with disabilities to participate in election processes.</p> <p>Measurable Indicators: 1) The ARSILC will collaborate with the CILS to increase the awareness on voting rights among individuals with disabilities 2) The ARSILC will coordinate priority agendas with Disability Rights Arkansas that involve training and educating poll workers on being effective communicators with all individuals with disabilities.</p> <p>Activities: 1) Host training and educational events quarterly throughout the state to increase awareness of voting rights among individuals with disabilities. 2) Attend two local Election Commission trainings of poll workers to provide input on assisting voters with disabilities. 3) Provide quarterly updates related to voting rights by social media and website updates. 4) Monitor legislation that will impact systems changes to the voting rights of individuals with disabilities.</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

The populations targeted for outreach are African American, Hispanic/Latino, Pacific Islanders, Native American and Asian Dan Hopkins & Associates, Inc. (DHA) completed a comprehensive study of the Independent Living needs of individuals with disabilities in the state of Arkansas.

The purpose was to assess, analyze and report these findings as requested by the ARSILC. The results of the comprehensive needs assessment will be utilized in future planning by the ARSILC and help guide input for the formulation of the three-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2017-2019. The comprehensive report can be viewed at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1K_f0oE57Fqbi0tdU5PT2VrTzg/view?usp=sharing .

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

There are four CILs in Arkansas: (1) Disability Resource and Advocacy Center (D-RAC) (2) Independent Living Resource Center d.b.a. Mainstream (3) Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS) and (4) Sources for Community IL Services (Sources). The Centers provide the five core services in 25 of the 75 counties. SOURCES service area covers four counties in the northwest corner of Arkansas. D-RAC service area serves ten counties in southeast Arkansas. Mainstream service area covers five counties in central Arkansas and part of Saline County. SAILS covers five counties in the southwest central region of the state and the remainder of Saline County. This leaves significant areas of the state that are not in a CIL service area. The counties not served include both urban and rural populations and minorities. African Americans are located in these geographical areas as well as an increasing Hispanic population. There is also a small Asian population within the state. The minority populations are not concentrated in any geographical area. The minority populations are located within the service areas of the Centers as well as in the counties served only by the ARS and DSB.

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

ARS and DSB provide IL services and outreach activities through their field offices for underserved populations including minorities in all 75 counties. The state agencies also provide outreach through collaboration with the Arkansas Workforce Centers One-Stops throughout the state. The state agencies and Centers include outreach to these populations through public relations efforts in brochures and public service announcements and involvement in community activities. The state agencies actively and successfully recruit minority staff. The state agencies, Centers and ARSILC have developed lists of organizations that provide translators of native languages. The ARSILC has a resource library that includes information in native languages.

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		36642	268708	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	150586			
Other Federal funds - other		476756		
Non-Federal funds - State funds	40756	162990	29856	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total				
Total	191342	676388	1138325	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		36642	268708	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				

Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	153598			
Other Federal funds - other		476756		
Non-Federal funds - State funds	41571	162990	29856	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	195169	676388	1138325	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		36642	268708	
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	156670			
Other Federal funds - other		476756		
Non-Federal funds - State funds	42402	162990	29856	
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	199072	676388	1138325	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.

ARS and DSB Part B funds and matching funds are used to provide IL services directly to eligible individuals through ARS-VR counselors and DSB-IL Counselors. ARS objectives include increasing emphasis on IL core services and training for counselors in IL philosophy.

Most of ARS Part B funds support the operation of the CIL programs. The Centers use Part C dollars to promote the IL philosophy, including a philosophy of consumer control, transition from nursing homes and the integration of people with significant disabilities into the mainstream of society. Funds from both Part B and Part C will be utilized in outreach activities.

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.

Federal and state funds for the Centers and IL services are coordinated through the state plans and financial accounting procedures of ARS and DSB. Funding amounts for the ARSILC and Centers from ARS and DSB Part B and Section 110 funds are negotiated and determined by ARS, DSB, the ARSILC and the CIL programs. ARS Part B federal funds are used to support the operation of the Centers with state matching funds used to provide IL services. Innovation and Expansion funds from Section 110 are used to support the ARSILC. The following table gives the amounts. The amounts cover the first year of funding and are estimates since funding is under continuing resolution and difficult to estimate accurately for years two and three.

Independent Living Services

Chapter I, Part B \$ 36,642 (DSB)

State Match \$ 4,071 (DSB)

Federal Social Security Block Grant (SSBG)* \$476,756 (ARS)

State Match- SSBG* \$158,919 (ARS)

Total \$676,388

General CIL Operation

Chapter I, Part B

\$ 66,290 D-RAC (ARS)

\$ 29,868 Mainstream (ARS)

\$ 95,591 SOURCES (ARS)

\$106,815 SAILS (ARS)

\$ 298,564 Subtotal

Chapter I Part C

\$169,009 D-RAC

\$332,734 Mainstream

\$169,009 SOURCES

\$169,009 SAILS

\$839,761 Subtotal

Total \$1,138,325

SILC Resource Plan

FY 2017

Section 101 (a) (18)

168,381 ARS

22,961 DSB

\$191,342

FY 2018

Section 101 (a) (18)

171,749 ARS

23,420 DSB

\$195,169

FY 2019

Section 101 (a) (18)

175,183 ARS

23,889 DSB

\$199,072

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.

No In-kind services are provided.

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

There is no additional information.

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 goals and objectives under Section 1 of the Arkansas SPIL are consistent and support the purposes stated in the Act:

" . . . to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society. . ."

The overall goal and mission of the SPIL is to increase the ability of Arkansans with significant disabilities to lead productive and independent lives by improving the quality and collaborative nature of independent living (IL) services provided by the IL entities in the state. The goals and objectives in the SPIL are :

GOAL 1: The SILC, CILs and the SILS will work together to assist Arkansans with disabilities to establish and maintain an integrated, independent lifestyle. The objectives are:

Objective 1.1: The SILS and CIL collaborate with key stakeholders and policymakers to increase the availability of services with access to public support programs, Advocacy services, home health care and assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.

Objective 1.2: Job Seekers with disabilities have an awareness of employment opportunities, workplace expectations and access to job and soft skills training.

Objective 1.3: Individuals with disabilities, rehabilitation counselors, and CILs have increased access to and are informed of new innovations in Assistive Technology (AT).

Objective 1.4: Individuals with disabilities will be asked to collaborate on Emergency Preparedness Action Plans for emergency response and maintenance services for Arkansans with significant disabilities in the aftermath of a disaster.

GOAL 2: The CILs, SILS, and DSE will increase activities to reach individuals with disabilities who are underserved and underrepresented in the IL network. The Objectives are:

Objective 2:1: Older Arkansans who are blind or have low vision receive IL training.

Objective 2.2: Individuals that are deaf/hard of hearing/deafblind are aware of, and have access to IL services.

Objective 2.3: Youth with disabilities who are transitioning toward community integration, employment, or higher education have access to services which will include peer-support, and mentoring programs.

Objective 2.4: The CILs will initiate activities to improve outreach to the following populations: African American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian and Pacific Islanders, including the Marshallese,

GOAL 3: The SILS, CILs and SILC will seek opportunities to build capacity and sustain expansions. The objectives are:

Objective 3.1: CILs partner with Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS), Area Agency on Aging offices (AAAs), and/or local authorities to coordinate IL services within their communities.

Objective 3.2: The SILC coordinates resource development by seeking outside funding opportunities to expand IL services.

GOAL 4: The SILC, CILS and SILS will coordinate to promote systems change through advocacy, training and educational opportunities. The objectives are:

Objective 4.1: The CILs in collaboration with the SILC and SILS will identify barriers to IL and will advocate for strategies that promote system change to better serve Arkansans with disabilities.

Objective 4.2: The CILs and the SILC will report to state and federal agencies as required.

Objective 4.3: The SILC in collaboration with the CILs will work to impart knowledge on the voting process and the rights of individuals with disabilities to participate in election processes.

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.

The Centers are working partners with the ARSILC in development of the SPIL objectives. The SPIL objectives were developed in partnership with ARSILC and the CILs, ARS and DSB. The priorities and objectives of the Centers' work plans were considered and incorporated into the SPIL objectives. These included emphasis on increasing capacity, enhancement of services, increasing partnership with the IL entities, focusing on the fifth core service, providing outreach to unserved areas of the state, and training in IL philosophy.

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.

ARSILC, the CILs, ARS and DSB cooperate and coordinate with a variety of entities carrying out activities of planning and coordinating services to people with disabilities to build capacity in communities and agencies by improving the quality and quantity of services and by avoiding duplication of services. The ARSILC solicits a Board of Directors comprised of individuals representing a broad range of stakeholders and interested parties regarding IL services. Organizations represented include the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Lighthouse Services for the Blind, a director of Disability Student Services at a prominent university, Division of Aging and Adult Services, a representative of local government, disability service providers, and consumers. Both ARS and DSB are represented on the ARSILC Board and attend meetings. A Center Director is on the Board as a representative of the Centers. These members interact with their respective agencies and organizations, network, cooperate, and coordinate with ARS, DSB, the ARSILC and the Centers.

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.

ARS, DSB and the SILC are aware of all IL and VR services within the state. Cooperative agreements are in place with the Department of Education, Special Education-Transition, and the Department of Career Education (Vocational Education). Cooperative agreements are implemented with DDS and Mental Health. Services are planned and coordinated to supplement and avoid duplication, including the DSB Older Blind Program. All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 adopt such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of, and accounting for funds paid to the State under Chapter 1 and 2. Case record files are maintained that document and fully disclose disbursement for all services. ARS and DSB comply with written policies concerning comparable benefits that require the counselor to determine and utilize benefits from any other agency that could be utilized in the consumer's individualized written IL plan.

IL is the foundation for VR services and under former Governor Mike Beebe's 2010 Executive Order 10-17, DSB coordinates with other state agencies to support independent living, remove barriers and increase employment of Arkansans with disabilities. Current Governor Asa Hutchinson intensified the state's efforts by issuing a time-bound memorandum to all state agencies calling for a progress report on actions taken under 10-17 along with a census of the

state's workforce who are individuals with disabilities, the development of concrete plans by agency to increase that population and annual reports of progress.

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.

Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) is a consumer-controlled commission which contracts with World Services for the Blind to provide specialized independent living instruction and equipment to Older Individuals who are Blind in the State of Arkansas.

The DSB Older Blind Advisory Committee consists of representatives of agencies and organizations concerned with quality rehabilitation services to older persons who are blind and severely visually impaired. The Committee continues to meet and collect consumer input and provide advocacy. The DSB Director/designee attends the committee meetings to participate in active dialog with the group. The recommendations of the Committee and the annual evaluation by the independent contractor (Mississippi State University Center on Blindness and Low Vision) lay the foundation for identifying and assessing the value of services provided. MSU also conducts the program's annual client satisfaction survey.

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	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	Yes	No	Yes
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	Yes	No	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)	Yes	No	Yes
Rehabilitation technology	Yes	No	Yes
Mobility training	Yes	No	No
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	Yes	No	Yes

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	No	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	No	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	Yes	No	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	No	Yes
Supported living	No	No	No
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	Yes	No	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	Yes	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	Yes	No	No
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	Yes	No	No
Individual and group social and recreational services	No	No	Yes
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	Yes	No	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	No	No	No
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	No	Yes

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

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

ARS, DSB, and CILs with support from the ARSILC have a priority to provide IL services to individuals with significant disabilities and for outreach to unserved and underserved populations within their service areas. (Minority populations include African American, Native American, Pacific Islanders and Marshallese, Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations.) CILs have a priority in transition services for youth and individuals with significant disabilities including individuals living in their community of choice. The SPIL addresses gaps in employment for individuals with disabilities, emergency preparedness, and the increased risk of violence that people with disabilities face. The CILs and ARSILC are consistently seeking to collaborate and explore new and innovative approaches to provide IL services more effectively and efficiently in Arkansas.

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.

DSB and the Centers do not consider a financial needs test in the provision of IL services. ARS follows a financial needs policy outlined in its Economic Need policy. Financial need is considered not as a condition for furnishing a service, but is utilized to determine if the individual has adequate financial resources to contribute towards the cost of their independent living services. The policy is in written form in the ARS Policy and Procedures Manual to facilitate uniformity in application. A financial needs test is applied to IL services with the exception of assessment of rehabilitation needs, including rehabilitation technology, except for those services other than of a diagnostic nature, which are provided under extended evaluation and counseling, guidance and referral services. Case record files are maintained by ARS on each individual provided IL services.

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.

ARS and DSB do not provide any IL services through grants or contracts. ARS and DSB services are provided directly or purchased individually.

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.

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.

ARS and DSB provide grants to the CIL programs for operations. All CIL staff and operations of the Centers are separate and independent from ARS and DSB. All case service records of individuals provided IL services by the Centers are housed in the Centers. The Centers are located independently from ARS and DSB offices.

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.

There are four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas. The Centers provide the five core services in 25 of the 75 counties. There are no non-Part C-funded centers in Arkansas. The Centers are as follows:

1. Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc. (SAILS), SPIL Signatory
2. Independent Living Resource Center d.b.a. Mainstream, SPIL Signatory
3. Disability Resource and Advocacy Center (D-RAC), SPIL Signatory
4. Sources for Community Independent Living Services, Inc. (SOURCES)

SPA AREA INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES, INC. (SAILS)

Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc. (SAILS) serves Garland, Hot Spring, Clark, Saline, Montgomery and Pike counties in Arkansas. According to the United States 2010 Census, and 2011 American Community Survey, the population estimates of these counties are 280,940 with approximately 52,536 reporting a disability and 35,398 reporting a significant disability.

Statistics show this population as being 88% white, 8.7% African American, 4.07% Hispanic and approximately 1% Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander combined.

The most current data on disability prevalence in Arkansas were gathered from the American Community Survey. The data represent prevalence in 2013. According to these data 17% of the Arkansas population had a disability. Disability rates were lowest for children under five years of age and highest for individuals age 75 years and older. For individuals aged between 16 ? 20 years, 6.6% had a disability and for those ages 21 ? 64 years 15.8% had a disability. The most prominent disability types were ambulatory 10.4%. Among younger people cognitive disabilities were more prominent than ambulatory or self-care disabilities.

Disability by race/ethnicity was 15.4% whites, 18.9% African Americans, 5.4% Asians, 24.9% Native Americans and 6.3% Hispanic/Latino. Native Americans had the highest disability rates while Asians had the lowest.

These statistics indicate that the Hispanic population is being underserved in our service area and needs to be a priority in SAILS outreach efforts. Also, SAILS service area is extremely rural

with Garland County being the most metropolitan area because of the city of Hot Springs. Saline County is growing but still consists of very rural areas. In the last reporting year 77% of the people served were from the Garland County area indicating an additional underserved population of people with disabilities in rural areas. This will also be a priority for SAILS outreach efforts.

The chart indicates Individuals by County for SAILS service area. (See Chart from Arkansas Needs Assessment 2015).

Individuals by County with a Disability

Clark-4,144, a percent of 18.5 , Garland-18,364, a percent of 19.3, Hot Spring-7,329, a percent of 23.3, Montgomery-2,880 a percent of 31.4, Pike-2,977, a percent of 27, Saline-19,525 a percent of 17.7.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates

In our attempts to reach the Hispanic population SAILS has hired two individuals who are Hispanic and bilingual. SAILS also has an individual who is deaf on staff to help with the deaf population within those service areas. This will continue to be a priority for SAILS.

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER, INC. D.B.A. MAINSTREAM

Mainstream is a cross-disability organization that serves persons with various significant disabilities in central Arkansas. The Center has a successful history of working with people from diverse backgrounds and ethnicities. Mainstream provides assistance to the following minority populations: African American, Native American, Asian American, individuals of Hispanic or Latino descent and Pacific Islanders. The Center's catchment area includes the following counties: Faulkner, Lonoke, Perry, Prairie and Pulaski.

Data from the 2010 U.S. Census indicates that there are approximately 2,949,131 people who reside within the state of Arkansas. Therefore, based on the statistical data, it is estimated that the combined totals of the Arkansans for the counties served by Mainstream is approximately 583,501. From the informational data collected by the 2010 US Census Bureau, it is estimated that 73,521 of those persons surveyed could potentially have a disability and 109,115 could potentially have a significant disability, which severely limited their daily activities. In addition the American Community Survey of 2011 stated that there are 19 million people in the United States who are persons with disabilities and 10% of those individuals are between the ages of 18 and 64 years.

Mainstream, in accordance with its mandate from the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Administration on Community Living Services, provides technical assistance and Independent Living Services in five of the 75 counties in Arkansas. Therefore, the Center has the potential to serve 18.7% of persons with disabilities in Arkansas with adequate resources being available. Mainstream's catchment area represents 6.7% of Counties in Arkansas.

It is estimated that 17% in Mainstream's catchment area are persons of minority descent who are unserved or underserved persons with disabilities.

It is estimated that 41,272 people of Hispanic or Latino descent reside in Pulaski County, which is Mainstream's most populated catchment area. Out of that number, it is estimated that approximately 5,200 of those residents could potentially have significant disabilities. The Hispanic or Latino populations live in both the urban and rural areas of the Center's catchment area. This segment of the population is unserved, due to language barriers and cultural bias. Therefore, Mainstream has the potential to serve another 5.8% of the non-traditional minority population in Arkansas. In order to connect with this group, the Center will collaborate with community organizations that provide services to this segment of the population as well as with community Faith-Based groups or organizations. Mainstream recognizes that the deaf community continues to be an underserved population in the Center's catchment area. Therefore, over the next three years, the Center plans to further increase its outreach effort to reach this target population for the purpose of providing technical assistance and Independent Living services upon request during the 2017-2019 State IL Plan.

DISABILITY RESOURCE and ADVOCACY CENTER (D-RAC)

Disability Resource and Advocacy Center (D-RAC) serves ten counties, Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Lincoln and Jefferson. Jefferson County is the largest county served with Pine Bluff being the only metropolitan area within the service area. According to the 2010 U.S. Census and the 2011 American Community Survey, the population estimates of these counties are 211,929 with approximately 39,631 reporting a disability and 26,703 with a significant disability. D-RAC's service area is predominantly rural and represents 56% of the total number of people with disabilities living in this part of the state. Statistics show this population on average as being 67% white, 31% African American, 4% Hispanic and less than 1% Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander. Only three of the counties are near White Hall where D-RAC is located.

Transportation, affordable, accessible housing and lack of available resources continue to be a barrier for people with disabilities in this service area. D-RAC serves as case managers for Money Follows the Person in transitioning individuals out of nursing homes and back into home and community based settings. D-RAC will continue to take the HEROES (Hands-on Education, Resource Options, and Enrichment Skills) program into local high school transition classes for students with disabilities to better prepare them for adulthood. Home visits, community networking and relationship building are the most effective ways to reach those who require IL services.

D-RAC will continue to promote the Center and educate organizations and other nonprofits on CIL services to further reach individuals in underserved areas. D-RAC will continue to expand services and find new and innovative ways to meet the unmet needs within the service area.

SOURCES

Sources for Community Independent Living Services, Inc. (SOURCES) is a cross-disability, community-based organization that serves persons with various significant disabilities in northwest Arkansas. SOURCES have a successful history of working with people from diverse backgrounds with differences in thought, experiences, style, and perspective.

SOURCES serve Benton, Carroll, Madison, and Washington counties in Arkansas. According to the 2014 Census and 2015 American Community Survey, the population estimates for these counties are 506,597 with approximately 86,000 reporting a disability and 52,381 reporting a significant disability. Statistics show this population on average as being 84% white, 1% African American, 13% Hispanic and approximately 2% Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander combined. (See Chart from Arkansas Needs Assessment 2015)

Individuals by County with a Disability are as follows:

Benton-21,871, a percent of 9.5, Carroll -4,831, a percent of 17.6, Madison- 3,066, a percent of 19.6, Washington-22,613, a percent of 10.7.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey Estimates

In 2015, Sources provided assistance to the following minority populations: African American, Native American, Asian American, individuals of Hispanic/Latino descent and Pacific Islanders. SOURCES also provided services to the Deaf Community and the deaf and hard-of- hearing population in northwest Arkansas.

New estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau show that Arkansas' Hispanic population is continuing to grow. SOURCES' 2015 704 report demographics indicate its independent living services and support were distributed as follows: 66% white, 5% African American and less than 5% Native American, Asian and Pacific Islander, and SOURCES saw a 22% increase in the Hispanic/Latino community. These statistics indicate that the Hispanic population remains underserved in SOURCES' service area and continues to be a priority in SOURCES outreach efforts.

Youth Transition is another important area to address. The following table shows the number of the students who had an IEP in school year 2015-16, but does not include those with physical disabilities (Sec. 504). The number of students with an IEP who were located within the service areas of SOURCES is as follows:

Youth with an IEP

Benton 4,610 Carroll 464

Madison 198 Washington 4,263

Source: ADE, District Cycle 2, 2015-16

SOURCES? approach to increasing and enhancing independent living services for underserved areas and populations includes: promotion and education of CIL services; establishing networks and collaborations with other service organizations; building relationships with community organizations; and using technology.

Additionally, data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports (BLS, 2014) indicate that from December 2013 to December 2014, employment increased in the three largest Arkansas counties (those with annual average employment levels of 75,000 or more in 2013). Furthermore, job growth in two large Arkansas counties exceeded the national average (Benton growth rate was 5.5% and Washington 3.5% compared to the national average of 2.2%). Employment levels were highest in Pulaski (245,000), Benton (108,300), and Washington (98,100) Counties, together accounting for 38.3% of total state employment.

BLS reports also indicated that Benton County?s 9.9% rise in average weekly wages ranked first among the nation?s 339 largest counties. Professional and business services made the largest contribution to the increase in wages in the county. Washington and Pulaski counties also had considerable wage growth, 4.3% and 3.7% respectively, ranking 87th and 143rd among all counties in the nation (BLS, 2015). Benton County had the highest average weekly wage among the state?s large counties at \$996 per week, slightly lower than the national average at \$1,035. Wage rates in all other counties were lower than the national average.

The above information was included as evidence for additional barriers to independent living encountered by individuals with disabilities including quality personal care and housing.

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).

Unserved and Underserved Areas

Arkansas has no non-Part C Centers within the state. There are four Part C CILs in Arkansas:

- (1) Disability Resource and Advocacy Center (D-RAC),
- (2) Independent Living Resource Center d.b.a. Mainstream,
- (3) Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS), and
- (4) Sources for Community IL Services (SOURCES).

The Centers serve 25 of the 75 counties in the state. SOURCES service area covers four counties in the northwest corner of Arkansas - Benton, Carroll, Washington, and Madison. D-RAC service area serves ten counties in southeast Arkansas - Grant, Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley and Chicot. Mainstream's service area covers five

counties in central Arkansas - Pulaski, Perry, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie and part of Saline County. SAILS covers five counties in the Southwest central region of the state - Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike and the remainder of Saline County. This leaves 50 counties in the state that are not in a CIL service area. The counties not served include:

Baxter, Boone, Calhoun, Clay, Cleburne, Columbia, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Franklin,

Fulton, Greene, Hempstead, Howard, Independence, Izard

Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Little River, Logan,

Marion, Miller, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Polk, Pope, Randolph, Saint Francis,

Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Sevier, Sharp, Stone, Union,

Van Buren, White, Woodruff, Yell

The first priority of serving an unserved area of the state is to establish a Part C CIL. If a Part C grant is relinquished or terminated, a new CIL would be established in the closed grant's service area. The order of priority for establishing a new CIL includes a minimum annual funding level. The minimum funding level to establish a new CIL is \$150,000 of Part C funds, if that amount of Part C funds is available after ACL has provided a COLA and Part C funds to existing centers at the level of funding the centers received the previous year.

1. The first priority area for expansion of the IL network into unserved and underserved areas of the state is in Northeast Arkansas, serving the counties of Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden. The Mississippi Delta is an economically depressed area and includes a significant minority population and a significant number of individuals with disabilities according to the Maximus SSA Beneficiary Distribution Website. The major population concentration is in Jonesboro and the surrounding area in Craighead County. Mississippi County is the next most populated area, which borders Craighead County on the west and the Mississippi Delta on the east. When the State's allotment is sufficient to fund a new Part C center in this region, the center will serve Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden Counties. Even though Part C funds are not available at this time, the SILS partners are exploring the possibility of opening a satellite CIL office in the city of Jonesboro using non-Part C funds. This would not be a full-fledged non-Part C Center, but a part-time information and referral satellite with the intention of eventually growing into a full status Center. A business plan will be developed and funding sources in the community explored. If the satellite can be implemented and sufficient funding becomes available, future growth will involve expansion into a stand-alone CIL initially serving Craighead and Mississippi Counties, and expanding into Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden Counties as adequate funding becomes available.

2. The second priority is a center in the Southwest area serving the counties of Miller, Lafayette, Hempstead and Little River. Miller County includes the city of Texarkana, and is the most populated county.

Spa Area Independent Living Services, serving the counties just north of this unserved area, has plans to establish a branch office which will provide services to the above listed counties. This branch office will be operated with non-Part C funding. The branch office most likely will be located in Hempstead County in the city of Hope because it is centrally located for the counties to be served and is large enough to support a branch office. Initially, the services offered by the branch office will be transition from nursing homes, case management for AR Choices waiver participants, housing assistance and information and referral.

3. The third priority is a center in the North Central counties, serving the counties of White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, and Woodruff. White County includes the city of Searcy and is the most populated.

The expansion of Independent Living service offerings will follow a specific process. Information provided via Centers for Independent Living, community forums and grassroots organizations establish the need for an additional Center for Independent Living. The feasibility determination process will consist of the following components: (1) compilation of data supporting the expansion; (2) formation of a committee charged with investigating the capacity of the community under consideration to support a new Center and the impact on existing Centers with contiguous service areas; (3) development of a community action plan to address deficiencies if expansion is recommended; (4) establishment of a satellite center if expansion is recommended under mentorship of an existing Center geographically located nearest the new service area; and (5) the satellite Center becomes independent upon development of funds necessary to fully support autonomy. Note that components (4) and (5) apply only to centers established with state or Part B funds since Part C has its own requirements for establishment of a new center.

If the amount of excess regular fiscal year Part C funds beyond the COLA is insufficient for the Commissioner of ACL to hold a competition to establish a new Part C center, the DSE and SILC will distribute any excess regular Part C funds proportionately among the four existing Part C centers.

When expansion of the IL network is not feasible, or recommended, the DSE and SILC in coordination with the existing Centers may:

1. Identify the unserved and underserved populations in the existing IL network catchment areas. Unserved and underserved populations may include, but are not limited to groups or populations of individuals with significant disabilities who:

a. Have physical, cognitive or sensory impairments

b. Are members of racial or ethnic minority groups in the catchment areas

c. Live in rural areas

d. Are elderly; or

e. Have been identified by the IL networks, the DSU, or the SILC as unserved or underserved within a Center's project area.

Sources for Community Independent Living Services in northwest Arkansas plans to conduct outreach sessions with the Latino and Marshallese populations, the elderly, and the rural Counties of Madison and Carroll.

SAILS' identified unserved and underserved populations are the Latino population in Garland County and Clark County and the rural population in Saline, Hot Spring, Montgomery and Pike Counties. SAILS? plans include connecting with the Workforce centers and/or other agencies that already have established locations in the rural counties of its coverage area and developing a plan to improve services in the aforementioned rural areas.

Mainstream will use the funds as a mechanism to reach an ever-increasing Hispanic population and rural African-American elderly in central Arkansas and the development of educational programs with other community stakeholders that have access to the diverse population.

D-RAC's service area is predominantly rural and represents 56% of the total number of persons with disabilities living in this part of the state. Only three of the counties are near Pine Bluff which is considered the only metropolitan area. Transportation is a huge need for persons in this service area and is mostly unavailable, so home visits and community networks are the most effective ways to reach those in need. Delta's approach to increasing and enhancing IL services for underserved areas includes promotion and education of CIL services and establishing networks with other service organizations and building relationships with community organizations.

2. Develop a plan to reach the unserved or underserved

populations (Outreach)

3. Determine need of service

4. Implement the requested services

5. Document the efforts

3.3 Section 723 States Only

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

4.1 Administrative Support Services

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

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) agrees to serve as the single Designated State Entity (DSE). As the agency on behalf of the State, it agrees to provide the administrative duties per proposed regulation ? 1329.12:

- 1) Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the state under this chapter based on the plan;
- 2) Provide administrative support services for a program under part B, through employees of its own. ARSILC and CILs staff are employed exclusively by them and are not employed by the State.
- 3) Keep such records and afford access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; and
- 4) Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs.

As the single DSE, ARS will administrate 100% of the Part B allocation as defined in this SPIL.

The DSE will work with ARSILC to coordinate pertinent report information that can be utilized for monitoring and evaluation purposes. The DSE will participate on the SPIL Committee to assist in the formulation and development of state plans along with the annual evaluation process. They will also participate every three years on the Needs Assessment Committee (NAC) to help define statewide priorities. ARS has established processes to solicit feedback from consumers served to identify satisfaction with services and their IL program experience. Data is collected and compiled by independent evaluators and reviewed by the SILC. ARSILC will update the survey instrument, redesign the methodology, coordinate instruction regarding CIL survey sampling, collect and tabulate individual CIL survey results, compile them into statewide results, and issue a final report. Individual center results will be discussed between the CIL and the DSE.

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

The staffs of ARS and DSB administer the State agencies' IL programs. ARS and DSB staffs are available for technical assistance to the ARSILC and Centers. Technical assistance and communication take place on an ongoing basis and are encouraged in order to support the overall State IL program.

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.

Funding for the resource plan of the ARSILC is provided by ARS and DSB from Section 110 (a)(18) Innovation and Expansion funds and State Match. ARS provides 88% and DSB 12% of the funds for the resource plan of the ARSILC. The following chart includes the negotiated amounts for fiscal years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

FY 2017- \$150,586 Federal I & E, \$40,756 State Match for a total of \$191,342, FY 2018- \$153,598 Federal I & E, \$41,571 State Match for a total of \$195,169 and FY 2019-\$156,670 Federal I & E, \$42,402 State Match for a total of \$199,072.

The ARSILC and the DSE develop the resource plan collaboratively. The plan provides all resources for the ARSILC including staff and personnel. All funds are provided by the DSE. There are no other public or private funds included in the resource plan.

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 ARSILC has approved financial policies and procedures that ensure all funds are expended appropriately and with integrity. These policies are executed with authority by the Executive Director and with oversight from the ARSILC Board of Directors. The Financial records are reviewed monthly by the Executive Director and the ARSILC Council and reported to all appropriate entities. Funding for the ARSILC yearly resource plan is outlined in a written grant agreement with ARS and DSB. The expenditures under the resource plan are monitored periodically by both ARS and DSB, and reviewed annually through a year-end financial review, which is provided to both agencies. There is a written contract with the ARSILC regarding funding. The contract requires written records, access and records retention. The contract requires the ARSILC to comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and by generally accepted accounting procedures and requirements of the State of Arkansas. The ARSILC agrees to allow DSE staff or other designees to conduct program monitoring and

evaluation during normal working hours. Termination may be immediate if at any time, the DSE concludes that ARSILC has not fully performed any/all the responsibilities under this agreement, an emergency situation arises or funding is not available. This does not affect any legal rights the DSU has in the recovery process related to damages if the ARSILC has not performed according to the terms of the agreement.

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

The ARSILC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a governor appointed Board of Directors. The ARSILC is placed administratively outside the government structure. The ARSILC is physically located autonomously from any State government buildings. A clause has been developed to add to the contract to insure that the DSU will not include conditions or requirements in the ARSILC resource plan 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.

ARS and DSB provide funding for the ARSILC resource plan through a written grant agreement. The amounts are agreed upon within the State Plan for Independent Living and ratified by the ARSILC Board of Directors and the Directors of the agencies. Spending is monitored through the finance sections of both ARS and DSB.

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 ARSILC obtained Articles of Incorporation on November 21, 1994 and gained status as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation on February 2, 1995. The Governor appoints the Board of Directors. The ARSILC is located outside the State government structure.

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.

The ARSILC collaborates with the Governor's Office on Boards and Commissions and tracks appointments and expirations of terms of Board members. A database was developed to assist in tracking and to monitor composition requirements. The ARSILC created a system to seek nominations through board members and other entities. A nominating committee works with staff to monitor and nominate candidates for Board membership. The Governor appoints members to the ARSILC Board of Directors. The Governor's office notifies the ARSILC of

appointments when they are completed. Prospective members are recommended to the Governor through collaborative effort by the ARSILC and Directors of the CILs. The ARSILC and the Governor collaborate to insure that the members meet ARSILC composition and qualifications requirements. The ARSILC selects a chairperson from among the voting membership of the Council. Membership terms of service are for three years, for no more than two consecutive terms. A member appointed to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for another member, is appointed for the remainder of such term. Terms are appointed on a staggered basis. Vacancies are filled by appointment 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.

The ARSILC maintains written policy and procedures in its ARSILC Personnel Policies in conformance with state and federal law. The executive director is supervised and evaluated by the ARSILC Council. The executive director oversees the day-to-day operations of the SILC as well as monitoring of the budget and expenditures. The administrative specialist is supervised and evaluated by the SILC executive director. Evaluations are done on an annual basis.

- 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 DSE does not assign duties to SILC staff and other personnel are not made available by the DSE or other State agency or office. The SILC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit agency and no DSE staff or personnel are employed by the SILC.

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.

ARS, DSB and the Centers maintain personnel policies that encourage hiring staff and utilizing individuals that are knowledgeable and specialists in VR and IL services. Counselors are CRC certified or working toward certification. ARS Assistive Technology @ Work (AT @ Work) and Increasing Capabilities Access Network (ICAN) programs have specialists in assessment and provision of assistive technology and rehabilitation technology that work with IL consumers. DSB has rehabilitation teachers and mobility instructors that are specialists in IL. The Centers have policy and procedures that cover personnel, financial, service provision and office procedures. The job description includes requirements under the section "Acceptable Training and Experience" that indicates a Bachelor's Degree in rehabilitation or other related field is preferred; two or more years in community organizing and training; personal disability or experience with the disabled population; and knowledge of disability laws, policies and regulations. The Centers are developing a uniform written policy that will specifically cover inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services, and in the development and support of Centers.

- 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.

ARS, DSB and the CILs seek to employ individuals with skills in alternative modes of communication and native languages. The ARS assistive technology project has staff that is trained and utilizes vendors certified in alternative communication devices. Each entity has staff or contracts with interpreters of Spanish and other languages, sign language interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing, and Braille.

- 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.

ARS, DSB and CILs have written policies that require continuing education, training, and staff development for all positions involved in providing IL services. ARS provides training in IL philosophy. ILRU on-line training is also provided to the DSU's and CIL's staff.

- 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.

ARS and DSB have written policies established in compliance with section 503 of the Act. Uniform written policy on affirmative action has been developed with all the CILs.

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.

ARS and DSB maintain internal accounting controls that comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements, generally accepted accounting procedures (GAAP) and applicable laws of the State of Arkansas. The internal controls of the agency are subject to an annual audit by the Arkansas Legislative Audit under the requirements of the Single Audit Act, and the Compliance Supplement. The ARSILC and Centers have internal accounting controls in compliance with state and federal law. The ARSILC and Centers maintain their own financial records in house and retain this information using an accounting software system. The ARSILC and the Centers use an outside accounting service to prepare payroll for the organizations and to conduct a monthly external bank statement audits. The ARSILC and Centers maintain written policy under Financial Policy and Procedures. The Centers have developed uniform policy and procedures for use in all Centers.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

ARS, DSB and Centers maintain fiscal records, personnel records, and consumer files in accordance with the Education Department of General Administrative Regulations.

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

All appropriate reports are submitted to the DSE and Commissioner as required.

- 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.

All records and files are available for review by authorized personnel.

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.

ARS and DSB maintain policy and procedures in compliance with federal and state law regarding eligibility, information and referral, non-discrimination, and no residency requirement other than presence in the state.

- 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.

Ability to seek information, eligibility determination, information and referral, non-discrimination, and non-exclusion from IL services based on residency are included in written policy and procedures. The individual Centers have policy and procedures for these issues. The Centers will develop uniform policy and procedures for use in all Centers on ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs.

- 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.

The Centers have uniform policy and procedures for use in all Centers on 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.

- 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.

The Centers have uniform policy and procedures for use in all Centers on application of eligibility requirements without discrimination.

- 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.

The Centers have uniform policy and procedures for use in all Centers on 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.

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.

ARS' and DSB's IL plans are developed for each individual in compliance with federal and state law. The Centers' IL Plans are developed or waived at application, and included in a packet that also outlines the grievance procedure and CAP information including contact numbers. The Centers will develop uniform policy and procedures regarding provision of IL services for use in all Centers. The Centers' Independent Living Plans are developed with the consumer with emphasis on consumer control. The Centers promote consumer involvement and offer individuals every opportunity to be active participants in the development of their IL Plans.

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.

ARS and DSB will provide each client with Client Assistance Program (CAP) information at application and make it available throughout the IL process. The Centers have written policy requiring notification of clients and applicants of the CAP. The Centers use a CAP informational pamphlet that is given to consumers at intake, and information is provided about Disability Rights of Arkansas and the Protection and Advocacy group in Arkansas. The CAP information is made available in accessible formats.

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.

ARS and DSB have written policies in compliance with federal and state law. The Centers have written policies to not release any personal information on consumers or employees without their written authorization. This is to ensure confidentiality in accordance with all federal laws and regulations. The CILs principle of confidentiality is maintained for all programs, departments, functions, and activities in accordance with policies and procedures of the organization.

Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

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

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of the Division of Services for the Blind</p> <p>Goal of SILS</p>	<p>Specific activities and indicators have been identified for each goal and objective cited in the SPIL. The SILC will annually, as well as quarterly, review its progress through its regular meetings via input from CILs and reports from the network of CILs; joint preparation and review of federal reports; and feedback from other entities regarding Independent Living issues and concerns for Arkansans with disabilities.</p> <p>Additional opportunities for assessing effectiveness include acquisition of input from Consumers through:</p> <p>Inviting public comment during each regularly scheduled meeting of the SILC.</p> <p>Consumer satisfaction is addressed through several methods. ARS has established processes to solicit feedback from consumers served to identify satisfaction with services and their IL program experience. Data is collected and compiled by independent evaluators and reviewed by the ARSILC. A SILC representative participates as a standing member of the State Rehabilitation Council, affording the opportunity for dialogue, input, updates, and annual reporting and review regarding SILC activities.</p>
<p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>The CILs in Arkansas in conjunction with the SILC have implemented a standard Consumer Satisfaction Questionnaire that is distributed to consumers. Analysis of responses is included in the 704 reports, which are provided to the SILC for review. Consumers are invited to express satisfaction or concerns with the IL service delivery</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p>	<p>Additional opportunities for assessing effectiveness include acquisition of input from consumers through:</p> <p>Inviting public comment during each regularly scheduled meeting of the SILC;</p> <p>Posting a copy of the SPIL on the Internet and providing a method for consumer and public comment;</p>

	<p>Reviewing public input collected by other entities, including but not limited to, ARS, DSB and CILs; and</p> <p>Presenting up-to-date information on the implementation of the SPIL events and solicit for public comment.</p>
<p>Goal of the ARSILC</p> <p>Goal of the Centers for Independent Living</p> <p>Goal of the Division of Services for the Blind</p> <p>Goal of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services</p>	<p>Consumer satisfaction is addressed through several methods. ARS has established processes to solicit feedback from consumers served to identify satisfaction with services and their IL program experience. Data is collected and compiled by independent evaluators and reviewed by the ARSILC. A SILC representative participates as a standing member of the State Rehabilitation Council, affording the opportunity for dialogue, input, updates, and annual reporting and review regarding SILC activities.</p> <p>The CILs in Arkansas in conjunction with the SILC have implemented a standard Consumer Satisfaction Questionnaire that is distributed to consumers. Analysis of responses is included in the 704 reports, which are provided to the SILC for review. Consumers are invited to express satisfaction or concerns with the IL service delivery</p>
<p>Goal of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services</p>	<p>ARS staff will attend ARSILC quarterly meeting Attending the meetings will afford ARS the opportunity to stay abreast of consumer satisfaction, statewide initiatives to expand IL services and information on IL activities.</p> <p>ARS will review and monitor quarterly financial and program reports submitted by the ARSILC.</p>

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

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

ARS follows a financial needs policy outlined in its Economic Need policy. Financial need is considered not as a condition for furnishing a service, but is utilized to determine if the individual has adequate financial resources to contribute towards the cost of their independent living services. ARS and DSB follow a comparable benefits policy to determine if any IL benefit or service is available from other programs or health insurance that can be utilized in the individual's IL plan. Comparable benefits are not a condition of eligibility.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain a benefit (Section 13 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended). Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1820-0527. Note: Please do not return the completed form to this address.