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

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Arizona

Agency: Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant 90IS0072-01 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.

Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration

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.

N/A

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.

Arizona Statewide 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 Letitia M. Labrecque, RSA Administrator.

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.

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.

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.

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).

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 Jennifer Longdon
Title SILC Chair
Signed? Yes
Date signed 06/27/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Letitia M. Labrecque
Title RSA Administrator
Signed? Yes
Date signed 06/23/2016

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

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind? No
Name
Title
Signed? No
Date signed
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 A

Goal Description:

The Arizona Independent Living network is enhanced and expanded

Goal Name: Goal B

Goal Description:

Youth who have disabilities in Arizona learn about and access Independent Living services

Goal Name: Goal C

Goal Description:

Disability organizations in Arizona collaborate on common issues related to policy and legislation

Goal Name: Goal D

Goal Description:

The AZSILC fulfills its mission to promote the equality, inclusion, and choice for people with disabilities through collaboration and public policy change

1.2 Objectives

1.2A. Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal(s) from Section 1.1</th>
<th>Objective to be achieved</th>
<th>Time frame start date</th>
<th>Time frame end date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal A</td>
<td>The Arizona Independent Living Network provides services needed by people who have disabilities living in Arizona</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>03/31/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal A</td>
<td>Consumer satisfaction with the Arizona IL Network is assessed</td>
<td>12/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal A</td>
<td>Underserved and unserved areas of Arizona access Independent Living services</td>
<td>11/01/2016</td>
<td>03/31/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal A</td>
<td>Employment Opportunities for people who have disabilities are increased.</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>03/31/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal B</td>
<td>Coordinate the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum for Students and Transitioning Young Adults Who Have Disabilities</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal B</td>
<td>Maintenance of the Arizona Youth leadership Alumni Association</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal B</td>
<td>Support and maintenance of the Arizona Youth Engagement Academy</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal B</td>
<td>Provide for the long-term stability and success of Arizona Youth Leadership Forum and Arizona Youth Engagement Academy</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal C</td>
<td>Provide support and coordination for implementation and long-term success of the Arizona Empowerment and Education Initiative</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal C</td>
<td>Provide organizational support for a coalition focused on education, community advocacy and increasing awareness of disability policy and legislation in Arizona</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal D</td>
<td>The AZSILC demonstrates its operational effectiveness and capability to develop, monitor, and evaluate the SPIL</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
<td>09/30/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal D</td>
<td>The AZSILC implements systems advocacy as a new authority as specified in the Rehabilitation Act.</td>
<td>10/01/2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goal D</td>
<td>The AZSILC implements resource development as a new authority as specified in the Rehabilitation Act.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 SILC conducted community forums across Arizona in addition to a needs assessment survey in order to gather information about the needs of people who have disabilities in our state. These efforts provided detailed information regarding areas of the state where services are lacking or entirely unavailable in addition to challenges facing people who have disabilities and specific minority populations. Specific populations targeted for outreach in this SPIL include Native Americans and other individuals who have disabilities living in rural Arizona, the Hispanic population living in urban Phoenix and Tucson, and youth who are transitioning from school to adult life. Finally, this SPIL includes objectives designed to engage people who have disabilities that are not active or engaged in the disability community.

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

Underserved and unserved regions in Arizona are primarily rural communities located in counties where the nearest Center for Independent Living and other providers are a significant distance away or not located in that county. For example, there is no Center for Independent Living located in Mohave County and IL services are unavailable. Additional challenges to accessing services include limited infrastructure, little or no availability of public transportation, lack of knowledge regarding services that may be available and others. Navajo County, located in Northern Arizona may best demonstrate this situation. While a Center provides services in this County, it is extremely rural, lacking infrastructure and covers a significant geographic area. Finally, our community needs assessment and surveys conducted by the CIL located in Phoenix indicate that much greater efforts are needed to outreach to individuals who primarily speak Spanish. Efforts to obtain state funding for IL services are described later in this plan. The Center in Phoenix would specifically direct funding toward services designed to serve this population.

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

A number of objectives in this State Plan seek to address outreach to unserved and underserved communities and populations in Arizona. Most notably, successful completion of objective A3 would result in increased funding for Arizona's IL Network. This funding would be used to establish and increase services in underserved and unserved areas of the state.

Objective A4 will improve employment outcomes for people who have disabilities in Arizona by increasing funding for our state VR agency. This increase in funding would translate to greater availability of employment and vocational services and elimination of order of selection in Arizona.
Goal B includes a number of objectives related to continuation of the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum, empowering youth to take leadership roles in the disability community in Arizona, and additional steps meant to increase inclusion and outreach by Centers to this population. Objectives found under Goal C will result in significant outreach across the state as the IL Network seeks to provide forums for education, empowerment and greater participation by persons who have disabilities in community advocacy, policy and legislative matters.

Specifically, as noted in objective C1, Arizona's IL Network will be initiating a statewide effort with the long-term objective of increasing awareness and participation in community and policy advocacy among people who have disabilities across the state. This effort, known as Arizona Empowerment and Education Initiative, is in direct response to input received from the needs assessment surveys and public forums held across the state in 2015. During these forums, individuals stated they do not feel connected to the disability community in Arizona, they do not receive information about policy and legislative issues and or do not understand how to get involved, and they lack the knowledge and tools to be effective advocates in their communities.

Funding for objective C1 will come from the portion of Part B dollars noted in the financial tables under IL Services found in section 1.3 of the Plan. Specifically, each of Arizona's five Centers will receive funding to cover a staff position (approximately 32 hours) to conduct the project in their given service area. Additional Part B funds will be used to support the project with specific emphasis on implementation, providing resources that will be used for project participants travel and for subject matter experts to provide training.

### 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
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<th>General CIL operations</th>
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Year 3 - 2019 Approximate funding amounts and uses

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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.

Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a) (18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) of $266,000 will be used to fund the SILC Resource Plan in each year of the SPIL cycle.

Part B funds in the amount of $15,000 will be used during each year of the SPIL cycle to support objective A1: The Arizona Independent Living Network provides services needed by people who have disabilities living in Arizona. Any unexpended funds allocated for this objective will be evenly split among the 5 Centers for Independent Living and used to support objective A3: Underserved and unserved areas of Arizona access Independent Living services.

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support objective A2: Consumer satisfaction with the Arizona IL Network is assessed.

For each SPIL year, Part B funds in the amount of $5,000 will be evenly split among the 5 Centers for Independent Living and used to support objective A3: Underserved and unserved areas of Arizona access Independent Living services.

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support objective A4: Employment Opportunities for people who have disabilities are increased.
Part B funds in the amount of $30,000 (year 1), $25,000 (Year 2), and $20,000 (year 3), will be used to support objective B1: Coordinate the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum for Students and Transitioning Young Adults Who Have Disabilities

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support objective B2: Creation of an AZYLF Alumni Association

Part B funds in the amount of $15,000 during each year of the SPIL cycle will be used to support objective B3: Creation and implementation of Arizona Youth Engagement Academy

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support objective B4: Provide for the long-term stability and success of Arizona Youth Leadership Forum and Arizona Youth Engagement Academy

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support SILC staff time on objective C1: Support and coordination of Arizona Empowerment and Education Initiative. Additionally, Part B funds in the amount of $253,661 (year 1), $258,661 (year 2), and $263,661, (year 3) will go to the Centers for Independent Living to support the objective. Finally, $25,000 will be used during each year of the SPIL cycle to cover additional project costs including outside instructors for portions of the training modules, travel costs for project participants and other appropriate expenses as identified.

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used for objective C2: Individuals and organizations serving persons who have disabilities in Arizona collaborate on common issues related to policy and legislation

Funds included as part of the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support objective D1: The AZSILC demonstrates its operational effectiveness and capability to develop, monitor, and evaluate the SPIL.

Funds included in the SILC Resource Plan will support objective D2: The AZSILC implements systems advocacy as a new authority as specified in the Rehabilitation Act.

Funds included in the SILC Resource Plan will be used to support Objective D3: The AZSILC implements resource development as a new authority as specified in the Rehabilitation Act.

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.

Arizona’s IL Network is committed to planning and coordinating efforts in order to maximize funding for IL services in our state. Members of the Network, including Center and SILC leadership along with staff from the DSE meet at least quarterly to discuss efforts and for planning purposes. Additionally, staff and Council members from the SILC attend and participate in meetings of other Councils in order to insure information is being shared and to coordinate activities where possible.
Arizona’s Centers for Independent Living do not receive any state funds at the present time and have not at any time. However, efforts were undertaken during the last SPIL, (FY 2014-2016), to address this situation. Unfortunately, we were not successful. The 2017-2019 SPIL, as noted in Part II, Section 1 includes an objective related to state funding. The SILC and Centers will continue efforts over the next three years.

As described in the financial narrative above, Centers will be receiving Part B funds. These funds will be used for a statewide project designed to provide disability education, advocacy training and to build capacity in Arizona’s disability community. The goal of this project is to provide people who have disabilities in our state with the tools they need to be effective advocates, to engage in their respective communities, to assume leadership roles and to strengthen consumer involvement in the IL Network.

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.

N/A

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

N/A

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 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. Those objectives include:

a) The objectives related to demonstrating ways to expand and improve IL services include A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, and B3.

b) The objectives related to developing and supporting statewide networks of centers for independent living are A3, C1, C2, D1, D2, and D3.

c) The objectives related to improving working relationships include C1 and C2.

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 SPIL objectives were developed with the involvement of the Centers for Independent Living. The AZSILC created a SPIL Development Committee in the summer of 2015 to assist in the development of the State Plan. All Centers were invited to appoint a representative to this committee and two Centers participated.
The Arizona SILC convened a meeting in December of 2015 with Center Directors and the SPIL Development Committee to discuss a number of issues related to the 2017-2019 SPIL. Discussion focused on creation of goals and objectives that were responsive toward the needs identified during the community forums, surveys and the needs analysis process. Many of the objectives included in the SPIL will directly benefit the efforts of Centers.

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.

The DSE, AZSILC and the Arizona CILs maintain a close and cooperative working relationship to maximize coordination. Gathering as the IL Network, they meet on a regular basis and jointly plan and coordinate activities included in the State Plan and around other priorities important to the respective entities. Both the DSE and CILs actively participate on the SILC. The IL Network meets periodically during the year to review the SPIL, present an overview of their respective organizations, accomplishments, issues, challenges, and consider how to expand the IL network. The CILs and SILC will work closely during the new SPIL cycle on objectives related to insuring the IL Network provides services needed by people in Arizona and to increase resources for the Network. AZRSA and CILs will provide SILC with their RSA-704 and related reports. CILs will provide the SILC with results of their respective consumer satisfaction surveys.

Other stakeholders participating on the SILC or in other activities undertaken by the IL Network include:

Government agencies such as the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES), Division of Developmental Disabilities, and Division of Aging and Adult Services.

Other Governor's Councils such as the Governor's State Rehabilitation Council, Governor's Council on Spinal and Traumatic Brain Injuries, Governor's Council on Blindness and Visual Impairment, Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Providers and other advocacy and disability groups such as The Arizona Disability Advocacy Coalition, The Arizona Technology Access Project, The Arizona Spinal Cord Injury Association, the Arizona Center for Disability Law, The Aging and Disability Resource Center, The Arizona Division of Emergency Management and People First of AZ.

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.

The Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program authorized by Chapter 2, Title VII of the Act is operated by the DSU. Referrals are made to and from IL staff within the Centers to insure appropriate services are provided and to prevent duplication.

In relation to specific services:

Developmental Disabilities Services:

Ability360 has a DDD grant to provide self-determination and self-advocacy skills training in groups and one to one for people who qualify for DDD services (This is My Life). Ability360 has a Community Living Options Program that works with people with intellectual disabilities that do not qualify for AZ DD services to help them learn IL skills, receive peer mentoring, find housing, education, employment, computer training, volunteer positions, community resources, and increase self-esteem/ self-confidence.

ASSIST to Independence works with DDD and ALTCS only with services that pertain to IL. In this case, ASSIST takes the lead in providing services to clients under DDD and ALTCS, and provides AT, IL, and equipment to clients.

Assist! To Independence also currently collaborates with the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council in order to conduct disability awareness conferences and transition fairs for youth with all types of disabilities including developmental disabilities as Navajo nation OSERS VR programs have limited funds to provide these services, especially in the Western portion of the Navajo Nation.

Assist! Continues to seek out and identify additional partners to collaborate with in order to provide increased disability awareness trainings and to enhance services in Navajo Nation communities, especially in areas that are unserved and underserved.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services in Pima County: This is My Life Program, a self-advocacy, self-determination program for individuals with DD, encourages voice and choice in goal setting.
The DSU coordinates services with the state Division of Developmental Disabilities to ensure that services being provided by that agency are not being duplicated by the DSU.

New Horizons provides job-related and other essential transportation services to people with developmental disabilities, and also assists with general CIL services.

Housing:

Ability360 provides Home Modifications to consumers that are receiving AZ Long Term Care services or live in the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Chandler, Scottsdale, Surprise, Tempe, Peoria and Gilbert. Resources for these cities are provided with funding under Federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) or city general funds. Unfortunately, the CDBG grant funds are being reduced each year. Ability360 also provides temporary transition housing at its Mast House for consumers who need transition housing for up to 8 weeks maximum.

ASSIST works with the Navajo Housing Authority on the reservation and advocates, on behalf of its consumers, for accessible housing. They anticipate increasing advocacy efforts as communities in Assist’s service area face significant housing barriers, especially for persons who have disabilities. The organization also collaborates with other nonprofit and faith based housing providers to refer and advocate for individuals needing accessible home modifications.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: referrals to housing resources through Information & Referral services. The Home Access Program, which enables individual homeowners with disabilities to remain living at home by providing free home adaptations through Pima County, City of Tucson, and Mercy Care funds, thus preserving individuals’ quality of life and saving society tens of thousands of dollars.

New Horizons provides Home Modifications through a VR contract. New Horizons also receives and follows-up on numerous requests to find affordable, accessible, safe housing and refers to the proper agencies people that are having landlord/tenant disputes.

SMILE CIL currently provides housing services in the areas of emergency housing repair and home modifications. To maintain independence in their own home, SMILE provides the consumers with home modifications. Additionally, emergency home repairs are done when funding permits to provide consumers’ safety in their own homes. All services provided by SMILE CIL in housing is for consumers that own their own homes. Consumers requesting other housing needs are referred to the appropriate service agency in the service area.

Behavioral Health:

The Centers provide consumers with services regardless of their disability that facilitate and enhance independent living. They do not provide professional counseling or case management for people with mental health disabilities, but many of the consumers who participate in programs do have mental health disabilities.
The DSU explores the existence of comparable benefits for clients that have independent living needs related to mental health needs. Referrals are made to appropriate community and state agencies that are designed to assist individuals with ongoing mental health needs.

Public Health:

Ability360 works with consumers regardless of their disability to access the health care they need through peer support including working with peer mentors and advocacy. Ability360?s Sports and Fitness Center provides a variety of programs that individuals and community groups can participate in, including an aquatic center, wheelchair sports, weight lifting, adapted yoga, rock climbing, personal training and fitness consultation.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: information on the Freedom to Work program, allowing working individuals to buy into AZ AHCCCS health insurance at very low rates; as well as Information and Referral services.

The DSU explores the existence of comparable benefits for clients that have independent living needs related to medical needs. Referrals are made to appropriate community and state agencies that are designed to assist individuals with ongoing medical needs.

New Horizons provides non-emergency medical transportation daily and presents the Living Well with a Disability workshop periodically as funds allow.

SMILE CIL provides as part of Life Skills Training for Independence a program called Living Well with a Disability. This program is provided to individuals with significant disabilities that covers health related issues. The program teaches consumers how to Live Well With a Disability so that there are less chances of a secondary disability and how to maintain health to decrease medical needs.

Social Security Act - Title XVIII ? Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act

Ability360 continues as an Employment Network with the Ticket to Work program. They offer services to beneficiaries of SSI/SSDI that result in self-supporting employment to eliminate dependency on cash benefits. They also provide Work Incentives planning so that beneficiaries return to work with the full understanding of how work will affect their benefits and that they can use the work incentives to ease back into the workforce without fear.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: Work Incentives Planning & Assistance associated with the Ticket to Work program including Freedom to Work.

All existent medical benefits are considered comparable benefits by the DSU. Clients are required to utilize these benefits when available instead of utilizing funding from the DSU for an individual?s independent living needs. As the DSU does not participate in long term medical care, referrals are provided to individuals in need of medical care to these programs when applicable.
Special Education:

Ability360 does not provide direct services related to special education. Ability360 does work collaboratively with school districts in Maricopa County through the "Empowering Youth In Transition" program providing both independent living transition skills to students in special education classes in selected high schools and information tables at parent/youth/transition events.

ASSIST to Independence coordinates with the public, grant, and BIA school services that need to be provided to their students. ASSIST to Independence receives referrals for Independent Living services to the students within their home; at times the students may need Assistive devices on a loan basis until one can be provided to them.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: Independent Living Skills training customized to the individual’s needs, learning style and pace (money management, cooking, home management, bus training, and social skills).

The DSU’s Vocational Rehabilitation program works with local schools to promote vocational rehabilitation for students with disabilities in those schools including individuals involved in special education.

SMILE CIL does not provide direct services related to special education. The CIL works collaboratively with school districts and other nonprofit organizations in Yuma and La Paz County to provide the necessary life skills training to individuals who are involved with special education. SMILE also provides advocacy services to individuals in special education as needed from referrals.

Transportation:

Ability360 provides monthly presentations with the Valley Metro public transit system to familiarize people (regardless of their disability) with the public transit options, and take them on a bus and light rail ride. Ability360 also provides transit alerts (i.e., service changes, public forums) and advocacy opportunities.

Assist! Provides transportation to consumers of Center programs, enabling them to attend Life Skills sessions or other disability events in the community. Most of the communities of the Western Navajo area do not have public transportation resources. Assist! Also collaborates with public health hospitals (TCRHCC) to provide transportation to people with severe disabilities and who need dialysis treatment and who are referred by hospital contract health care offices. OSERS VR does provide transportation for VR related activities to only their consumers.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: training in the use of public transportation systems; referrals to community resources and services.

New Horizons Independent Living Center remains an integral part of accessible transportation services in Yavapai County, a community with no public transportation resources. Utilizing 15
vehicles, they transport people with disabilities and frail elderly individuals to essential destinations like doctor offices and grocery stores.

SMILE CIL provides travel training to consumers, as well as transportation services to consumers that use SMILE services. The transportation services are provided to consumers who cannot otherwise attend services.

Veteran Services:

All five of the Centers for Independent Living in Arizona welcome and provide the core services to veterans who have disabilities.

All of Ability360’s programs are open to veterans, and they refer veterans out to other community resources when appropriate to get necessary services. Their WIPA program staff is knowledgeable about how veteran benefits are impacted by employment and help veterans understand this so they can make informed choices about employment. Ability360 Sports & Fitness Center is a provider for Wounded Warrior Project, providing memberships and other services to Wounded Warriors and their families. All veterans receive significantly-discounted memberships to the Sports & Fitness Center for themselves and their family.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides comprehensive Information and Referral Services to veterans, including those that are using other DIRECT programs.

Veterans are welcome to use and benefit from all services at New Horizons Independent Living Center.

Vocational Education:

Ability360 provides Work Incentives Planning and Assistance through an SSA contract for people regardless of their disability.

ASSIST works with the Navajo OSERS, only to provide IL Services. When a referral is received for VR services, they will then refer the consumer to VR, as they will assist the student with vocational education. ASSIST may at times provide dual services only pertaining to IL Services. Staff participate in the Northern Arizona Community of Practice Transition Meetings to advocate for Transition students who are bussed to off reservation schools (Flagstaff and Page) to receive VR services as requested and will also advocate for transition services.

DIRECT Center for Independence provides the following services: Work Incentives Planning & Assistance designed to assist individuals in managing their Social Security benefits and work earnings in a manner that suits their vocational choices and disability-related needs.

The DSU’s Vocational Rehabilitation program is focused on providing, as part of their Individualized Plans for Employment, vocational education when necessary for individuals in the program.
New Horizons Independent Living Center (NHILC) provides a computer lab to the general population of people with disabilities, training specific to the needs of job seekers as well as one on one instruction on software geared to the needs of persons who are blind or visually impaired.

SMILE CIL provides Vocational Services to individuals as needed per referrals from Vocational Rehabilitation. Services are usually in the area of computer skills training in order for consumers to gain the necessary skills for employment.

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.

N/A
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</th>
<th>Provided by the DSU (directly)</th>
<th>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</th>
<th>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation technology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility training</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Description</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported living</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical rehabilitation</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapeutic treatment</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual and group social and recreational services</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services for children with significant disabilities</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

The objectives, as identified in Section 1.2 of this SPIL, will impact populations in which people who have disabilities are currently underserved by the Independent Living community in the state of Arizona. Targeted groups include rural communities, Native Americans, and youth/young adults. Special attention will be given to rural areas of the state, which will have the effect of improving services to these populations and for all people who have disabilities statewide.

Related to rural outreach: Objectives under goals A and C seek to insure the IL Network continues to provide the most needed services, expansion and enhancement of services with increased funding, establishment and maintenance of a statewide coalition of individuals and service providers, and efforts related to education, empowerment and organization of the disability community.

Objectives under goal B provide for continued outreach to youth. Efforts to provide youth with a greater voice in Arizona's IL Network will be continued and strengthened.

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

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

The Arizona State Independent Living Services program utilizes a financial needs test when determining what services the program will provide and what services the client will be responsible for paying for with their own or other funding. This financial needs test is based on criteria that the Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration established in the State of
Arizona Administrative Rules (R-6-403) for the Vocational Rehabilitation program but, it is also now applied to Independent Living Rehabilitation Services and are reflected in the most current version of the Independent Living Rehabilitation Services policy manual. These criteria are uniformly applied to all clients in relation to specific service types.

The financial needs test for the Arizona State Independent Living Services program is based on the median income for the state of Arizona. Individuals whose adjusted annual income, as displayed on their most current federal tax statement, falls below median income are considered to meet economic need and are not required to utilize any of their own resources, beyond comparable benefits that may be in place, for services. Individuals that are above the median income level are responsible for the costs of all services that AZRSA has listed as being subject to economic need. These services currently include:

1. All purchased counseling services.
2. All restorative services.
3. All books/tools/computers/software/tape recorders and other training materials purchased for basic education, skill training/education, and business/vocational/technical education.
4. All occupational licenses, tools/computers, work equipment purchased for work.
5. Vehicle modifications.
6. All transportation costs, except transportation in support of an evaluation or adjustment to disability service.
7. All food/clothing, living away from home, and relocation maintenance.
8. Child care services.

The AZRSA is currently in the process of drawing up new administrative rules for the Independent Living Rehabilitation Services program which will further clarify, specific to this program, the economic need criteria that is applied to service provision.

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.

The Designated State Unit provides a wide variety of services through contractual arrangements with community rehabilitation providers. These contracts include but are not limited to home modification, vehicle modification, other assistive technology, restoration services, and transportation. All contracts are awarded based on structure put forward by state law and state procurement rules. These contracts serve as the primary source for the provision of the specific services when these specific services are provided by the Designated State Unit.
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.

The Designated State Unit does not contract with or award any grants to Centers for Independent Living for the general operation of centers.
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.

Arizona currently has five Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide a range of independent living services.

?Ability360, (SPIL Signatory). Previously known as Arizona Bridge to Independent Living, (ABIL) located in Phoenix, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 19,339 square miles in Gila, Maricopa, and Pinal counties. Within Ability360?s service area, the number of people with disabilities is estimated to be 437,691 (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013). Ability360?s funding sources include Part C, State General Revenue (SGR), local, private and other Federal funds.

?ASSIST! To Independence, (SPIL Signatory) Located in Tuba City, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 18,279 square miles on the Navajo and Hopi Reservations that are in the Arizona counties of Apache, Coconino, and Navajo. In ASSIST service area, the number of people with disabilities is estimated to be 30,632 (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013). ASSIST?s funding sources include Part C, private and other Federal funds.

?DIRECT Center for Independence, Inc. (SPIL Signatory) Located in Tucson, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 23,056 square miles in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, Pima, and Santa Cruz counties. In DIRECT?s service area, the number of people with disabilities is estimated to be 159,402 (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013). DIRECT?s funding sources include Part C local, private and other Federal funds.

?New Horizons Disability Empowerment Center, (SPIL Signatory) Previously known as New Horizons Independent Living Center, located in Prescott Valley, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 42,929 square miles in Mojave and Yavapai counties, as well as the non-reservation segments of Coconino, Navajo, and Apache counties. In New Horizon?s service area, the number of people with disabilities is estimated to be 88,050 (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013). New Horizon?s funding sources include Part C, local, private and other Federal funds.

?Services Maximizing Independent Living and Empowerment (SMILE), (SPIL Signatory) Located in Yuma, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 10,013 square miles in La Paz and Yuma counties. In SMILE?s service area, the number of people with disabilities is
estimated to be 24,804 (U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013). SMILE? s funding sources include Part C, local, private and other Federal funds.?

CILs may provide services using Part B, State General Revenue, and other sources of funds to provide services in areas outside of their original Part C service areas

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).

As noted in the prior State Plan, the IL Network believes that any expansion of the network must include programs and services for residents in rural communities, including Native American Tribal Communities. The 2014-2016 SPIL specifically identified Mohave County, located in North West Arizona, as a targeted area for establishment of a new Center for Independent Living should additional funds become available. According to Census data from the 2013 American Community Survey, over 18 percent of Mohave County? s population are people who have disabilities. The prior SPIL included an objective that, if successfully implemented, would have resulted in state funding for establishment of this CIL. Unfortunately, efforts were not successful and will continue in this Plan as part of Objective A3.

In order to establish an order of priority for serving underserved areas and populations, the AZ IL Network partners used the Arizona County disability demographic data presented in the respective CILs? annual 704 Reports. Additionally, the Network relied on data from the American Community Survey.

Establishment of the Center in Mohave County and further expansion of Arizona? s IL Network is addressed in objective A3; Underserved and unserved areas of Arizona access Independent Living services.

The AZSILC strongly believes that communities are best served by centers that have strong philosophical, programmatic, and financial underpinnings. The minimum funding level to establish a new Part C CIL is $328,000 in Part C funds before consideration is given to requests for the establishment of a new Part C funded CIL. The basis for selecting $328,000 is related to the data from the Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana.

With respect to any additional or new Part C funds allocated to the AZ CILs, the formula for disbursing those additional or new funds to CILs shall be:

? 50 percent of the total will be divided equally among the existing CILs

? 50 percent of the total will be divided among the existing centers based on the size of their geographic service area and their relationship to the total disability demographics of the state.
Arizona will utilize the U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2013 during the current SPIL cycle as the source for statistical information when calculating the distribution of additional part C funding and will always utilize the most recently issued data from this source in the future. The following chart shows the percentage of funding each Center would receive in additional Part C funding beyond the COLA based on the 2013 data:

Ability360:
59%

Assist to Independence:
4%

Direct Center for Independent Living:
22%

New Horizons:
12%

Services Maximizing Independent Living:
3%

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.

The Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration has been chosen as the Designated State Entity. The DSE will receive Part B funds on behalf of the IL Network and distribute those funds in accordance with the State Plan for Independent Living. The DSE will provide financial oversight and fulfill all reporting requirements as specified.

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

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

5.1 Resource plan

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

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

For more information click the icon.

The council plans to conduct the following discretionary activities, or authorities, as authorized and described in the approved State Plan, Objectives D2 and D3, found in Part II, Section 1.2.

Authority (1): conduct resource development activities to support objectives described in the approved SPIL and/or to support the provision of independent living services by Centers for Independent Living.

? The council will establish a Resource Development committee and charge them with the responsibility to create a resource development plan.

? The Executive Director, (and SILC staff as appropriate), will carry out the plan and provide updates to the committee on a regular basis.

? The Finance Committee will oversee budget activity and address fiscal implications related to resource development.

? The Executive Committee and full council will oversee and monitor the progress made by the Executive Director and Resource Development Subcommittee.

? When relevant to the resource development plan and goals, another authority may be exercised (2) work with Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services with public and private entities to improve services provided to individuals who have disabilities.

Authority (3) consistent with the purpose of this Chapter, comparable to other functions described in section 705(c) of the Act, the council determines to be appropriate as authorized in the approved SPIL the following activity:

1. Statewide Systems Advocacy
Consistent with the purpose of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, the council will utilize the following protocol to identify, discuss, and address priority issues faced by people who have disabilities in Arizona and will engage in statewide systems advocacy.

The council will charge the Public Policy Committee with the responsibility of developing a statewide systems advocacy strategy.

The Public Policy Committee will develop and disseminate an agenda based on priorities from the statewide needs assessment. It will be a three-year agenda that will be adjusted annually.

Based on time and the priority of issues, the committee will make recommendations to the full council (or executive committee which has the authority to act in between council meetings) regarding which issue or issues to potentially respond to in a given year. The council/executive committee will review the recommendations and potential actions.

Action may include but not be limited to: writing correspondence; issuing reports; promoting education and media opportunities; and coordinating collaborative efforts with Centers for Independent Living and other disability stakeholders.

Documentation of activities and actions will be kept via the committee’s minutes, letters and or documents created, and be noted in the quarterly reports provided to the SPIL Evaluation Committee.

In undertaking the described authorities, the SILC shall:

1. Coordinate with the CILs in order to avoid conflicting or overlapping activities within the CILs' established service areas;

2. Not engage in activities that constitute the direct provision of IL services to individuals, including the IL core services; and

3. Comply with federal prohibitions against lobbying.

***5.1: SILC Resource Plan:

The SILC Resource Plan necessary and sufficient to carry out the functions of the Council as described in CFR 364.21 (g) & (h), is divided into 3 major categories:

1) Administrative, 2) Operating, and 3) Council Member Support.

Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Arizona SILC agree that funding for the SILC Resource Plan will come from Innovation and Expansion funds received by AZRSA.

The Council’s Resource Plan also has a 4th category; Programs/Projects. Funds to administer, coordinate, or otherwise carry out those corresponding responsibilities may be derived from Title VII Part B and/or from other public and private sources. SILC shall establish procedures and
processes to ensure that expenditures related to these activities are not allocated to its federal or state matching funds, but only to its other resources as appropriate.

FY 2017
1) Administrative: $176,000
2) Operating: $60,750
3) Council Member Support: $29,250

FY 2018
1) Administrative: $176,000
2) Operating: $60,750
3) Council Member Support: $29,250

FY 2019
1) Administrative: $176,000
2) Operating: $60,750
3) Council Member Support: $29,250

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.

To address the requirements of the Resource Plan, the AZ SILC's Executive Committee and Executive Director shall prepare an annual income and expense budget. That budget shall be presented to the full Council for approval. Once approved, the budget is shared with and explained to the entire staff so they have a clear understanding of the fiscal parameters and restraints under which the AZSILC and they, as employees, must operate. The Executive Committee shall conduct a budget review and monthly comparison of actual expenses to budgeted expenses as a part of committee meetings.

The AZSILC's Executive Director, in conjunction with the Council Chairperson and Treasurer, shall develop and maintain an accounting system which is in compliance with standards for non-profit accounting. They shall develop reliable and understandable financial statements in a format acceptable to the full Council. Once developed, these financial statements shall be used consistently throughout the year so that all Council members understand the true financial position of the Council at any time during the fiscal year.
The AZSILC accounting procedures includes a chart of accounts that segregates and attributes income and expenses by fund sources. AZSILC has the capacity to generate comprehensive and individual fund source financial statements at any given time.

The AZSILC?s financial and program records shall be audited annually by an independent auditor, who shall examine the Council?s financial management system and report any and all findings, including those required by audits under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars A-122 and A-133.

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

The AZSILC will not accept any revenues with conditions or requirements that may compromise the independence of the Council.

The AZSILC will also not allocate any funds with conditions or requirements that may compromise the independence of the Council.

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

The AZSILC will exercise due diligence in adhering to the allocations as set forth in the Resource Plan. If unanticipated circumstances warrant any changes in the funds as allocated, those changes may be accommodated by redistributing the funds within the Resource Plan with revisions to the annual budget as appropriate and in accordance with established policies.

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.

To ensure that the AZSILC does not exist as an entity within a state agency, it was established as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit corporation in 2002. The AZSILC develops and administers its own budget, leases an office suite in a commercial building, and hires, supervises and evaluates its own staff. AZSILC has 3 staff: an Executive Director; a Director of Administration; and an Office Manager. All of the staff are employees of the Council and are responsible to the Council. The Executive Director reports to and is directly supervised by the Council. The staff conducts the day-to-day business operations of the Council, coordinates the logistics for all Council related meetings and activities, completes reports on behalf of, and in conjunction with the Council, and supports the Council?s work on action steps related to the Council?s goals and objectives.

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.

As vacancies occur on the Council, the AZSILC Membership and Nominating Committee identifies potential candidates to recruit for membership. A member of the Executive Committee chairs the Nominating Committee and other SILC members comprise the remaining committee composition.

There is a continuous recruitment process, it includes: promotions on and through the SILC website, social media, SILC members solicitations, and at all events where SILC has an official presence. When vacancies occur, the Membership Committee reviews the pool of candidates and contacts those who may fit the compositional need, i.e., the demographics as defined by statute. The candidates are requested to submit an application and other related biographical materials. Candidates are then vetted by the Membership and Nominating Committee and recommended to the Council for approval. Candidate information and materials are then forwarded to the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions in consideration for appointment.

The current Council composition closely represents the age, disability, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity of the State. A majority are individuals with disabilities that are not employed at a CIL or by the State. There is a 121 project representative, a CIL executive director (elected by all the center executive directors), and staff from the DSU who serve on the Council as well.

The AZSILC has an executive committee composed of a chair, vice chair, secretary, treasurer and vice treasurer. Each officer is a voting member and is elected for a two-year term by a majority vote of the Council at the last quarterly meeting of the fiscal year. To maintain continuity, secretary, treasurer and vice treasurer are elected every other year, with the chair and vice chair elected in the intervening year. The Executive Committee meets every-other-month, or more frequently as needed, to monitor the day-to-day operations. Full Council meetings occur in the months when the Executive Committee does not meet.

Many AZSILC members serve for two consecutive terms. Applications, appointment documents, and other pertinent materials are filed in both the AZ SILC office and the Arizona Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions. Periodic reviews of those files are conducted by SILC to assess and monitor the term limits.

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

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

According to the SILC Personnel Policies:
The AZSILC Executive Director serves at the will and pleasure of the Council and may be terminated at any time with just cause or no cause at all. By the same token, the AZSILC Executive Director may terminate her/his employment with the Council at any time with just cause or no cause at all and in accordance with the terms and conditions of her/his contract with AZSILC.

The Executive Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, recruits, trains and supervises all employees. Each employee is provided with a job description. Job descriptions are developed by the Executive Director and submitted to the Executive Committee for their approval. They are requested to review job descriptions and provide feedback to the Executive Director regarding any requests for revisions. Should the responsibilities of an employee change, the job description shall be revised to reflect those changes submitted to the executive committee for consideration. Should no further revisions be needed, the Executive Director will submit the new job description to the Council for approval.

All AZSILC employees are evaluated after the first three months and annually thereafter. The evaluations will consider quality of work, quantity of work, attendance, relations with co-workers and the public, practice of the independent living philosophy, any issue addressed in a previous evaluation, and any other issues or concerns. With each evaluation, the employee will be given specific suggestions for improvement and will be given the opportunity to respond to the evaluator?s comments. The Executive Director will conduct employee evaluations. The Council?s Executive Committee will conduct the evaluation of the Executive Director and make recommendation to the full Board for final approval. Evaluations will be taken into consideration when opportunities for advancement and salary increases are available. Employees may request an evaluation at any time.

- 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 AZSILC Executive Director works directly with, and is managed by, the Council?s Executive Committee. That Committee assigns the duties, defines the responsibilities, supervises, and evaluates the Executive Director. The Executive Director directly manages, assigns duties, delegates responsibilities to, and evaluates the SILC staff. No other organizations provide staff support to the AZSILC. The DSU or any other organization cannot assign duties or responsibilities to AZ SILC staff.
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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living seek to hire and maintain personnel that are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. Position descriptions reflect a need for knowledge of independent living and rehabilitation. The Designated State Unit maintains a policy that all rehabilitation counselors are eligible to sit for Certified Rehabilitation Counselor exam or that they are overseen by and have their work approved by someone who is eligible to sit for Certified Rehabilitation Counselor exam. Performance reviews are used to reinforce the skills of current staff as well as to identify areas where further development may be needed to aid the staff in continuing to grow in their positions and knowledge.

- 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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living promote equal access for all consumers to information and services related to independent living. Personnel are available, to the maximum extent feasible, that are able to communicate with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes. If necessary, communication in the native language of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive independent living services from the Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living will be provided. Resources such as adaptive equipment are also available in many instances to further assist with this endeavor. These personnel and resources are provided both directly by the Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living and may also be indirectly via contracts with outside agencies.

- 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.
The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living have established and continue to maintain distinct programs of staff development for all staff involved in providing independent living services and, where appropriate, in administering the Center for Independent Living programs. This encompasses improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of independent living services, including knowledge of and practice in the philosophy of independent living.

The Designated State Unit has monthly teleconference meetings, and annual face-to-face or video conference meetings for training, sharing and supporting staff and management involved in the State Independent Living Services program. The Designated State Unit also hosts a wide variety of trainings throughout the year related to not only independent living but rehabilitation in general. These trainings are made available to the State Independent Living Services personnel. The Centers for Independent Living maintain distinct local programs of professional development for orienting new staff and a variety of on-going training for existing 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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living comply with the terms and conditions set forward in section 503 of the Act in relation to employment of all individuals.

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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living maintain financial records that document and fully disclose the amount and disposition, total cost, portion of funding from other sources and compliance with Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, the financial assistance received under Parts B and C, and other records that the secretary determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living maintain financial records that document and fully disclose the amount and disposition, total cost, portion of funding from other sources and compliance with Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, the financial assistance received under Parts B and C, and other records that the secretary determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.
• Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate

The Designated State Unit, in partnership with the Arizona State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living, annually submit a 704 Report. The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living also provide a Financial Status Reporting Form 269 and will submit any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living will grant access to the Commissioner and Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, all information necessary for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews regarding Part B and C funding activities

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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living have programmatic policies in place which describe the eligibility criteria that an individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

• 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.

The Designated State Unit and Centers for Independent Living make information available to any individual who requests information about available independent living services provided, as well as referral information regarding other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities provided by other entities.

• 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.

Eligibility determination for independent living services provided by Centers for Independent Living are made in compliance with the stipulations 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.
Eligibility determinations are applied without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability.

- 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.

No state or local residence requirements are in place that would exclude anyone based on these factors from receiving independent living services from either the Designated State Unit or the Centers for Independent Living.

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.

The DSU and CILs have programmatic policies in place which describe the provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan (which complies with 34 CFR 364.52) that is mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and DSU/CIL staff, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

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

The DSU and CILs have programmatic policies in place which describe provision of information, in accessible formats as requested. These policies notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services of the SILS and CIL programs, about the availability of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

The DSU and CILs have programmatic policies in place which describe safeguarding the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names, of applicants and recipients of SILS and CIL program services, in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a).
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

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<tr>
<th>Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1</th>
<th>Method that will be used to evaluate</th>
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<td>Goal A</td>
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<td>Objective A1: Conduct a Needs</td>
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<td>Measurable Indicator: The Arizona</td>
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<td>Goal A</td>
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Objective A2: Consumer satisfaction with the Arizona IL Network is assessed

Measurable Indicator: A statistically significant number of consumers of services from each CIL will be surveyed to assess their level of satisfaction with the services they received.

Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC

Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: CILs

How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly

Goal A

Objective A3:

The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.

The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.

Objective A3: Underserved and unserved areas of Arizona access Independent Living services

Measurable indicator: Centers for Independent Living will increase outreach efforts to an unserved or underserved population in their service area.

Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC

Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: CILs and SILC

How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly

Goal A

Objective A4:

The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of
Information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.

The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.

**Objective A4: Employment Opportunities for people who have disabilities are increased.**

**Measurable Indicator:** By September 30, 2019, the Arizona Independent Living Network will be engaged in Arizona Employment First Initiative Efforts.

**Sources of information needed for indicator:** Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

**Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective:** SILC

**Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information:** SILC

**How Often item(s) of Information are needed:** Quarterly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal B</th>
<th>Objective B1:</th>
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<td><strong>Objective B1:</strong> Coordinate the Arizona Youth Leadership Forum for Students and Transitioning Young Adults Who Have Disabilities</td>
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<td><strong>Measurable Indicator:</strong> Youth who have disabilities in Arizona gain Independent Living skills as they prepare for and transition to adult roles</td>
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<td><strong>Sources of information needed for indicator:</strong> Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.</td>
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<td><strong>How Often item(s) of Information are needed:</strong> Quarterly</td>
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Goal B

Objective B2:

The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.

The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.

Objective B2: Creation of an AZYLF Alumni Association

Measurable Indicator: Arizona Youth Leadership Forum and Arizona Youth Engagement Academy Alumni demonstrate leadership in the disability movement through Alumni Association meetings, activities, and initiatives

Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC

Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: SILC

How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly.

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Goal B

Objective B3:

The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.

The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.

Objective B3: Creation and implementation of Arizona Youth Engagement Academy

Measurable indicator: Youth who have disabilities contribute as leaders within the Arizona Independent Living Network

Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC
| Goal B | Objective B3:  
The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.  
The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.  
Objective B3: Creation and implementation of Arizona Youth Engagement Academy  
Measurable indicator: Youth who have disabilities contribute as leaders within the Arizona Independent Living Network  
Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.  
Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC  
Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: SILC  
How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly |
|--------|------------------------------------------------|
| Goal C | Objective C1:  
The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.  
The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.  
Objective C1: Support and coordination of Arizona Empowerment and Education Initiative  
Measurable Indicator: People who have disabilities in Arizona increase participation in community advocacy and engagement with the IL Network |
| **Goal C** | **Objective C2:**  
The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.  
The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.  
Objective C2: Provide organizational support for a coalition focused on education, community advocacy and increasing awareness of disability policy and legislation in Arizona  
**Measurable Indicator:**  
Individually and organizations serving persons who have disabilities in Arizona increase collaboration on common issues related to policy and legislation  
Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.  
Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC  
Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: SILC  
How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly |

| **Goal D** | **Objective D1:**  
The method used to assess, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the plan requires the primary lead organization for each objective to convey sources of information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal D</th>
<th>Objective D1:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The AZSILC will demonstrate its operational effectiveness and capability to develop, monitor, and evaluate the SPIL.</td>
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information and documentation to the organization that will be assessing and evaluating the measurable indicator and timeframe related to each objective.

The objectives listed below indicate the various stakeholders and their responsibilities in the evaluation process.

Objective D3:

The AZSILC implements resource development as a new authority as specified in the Rehabilitation Act.

Sources of information needed for indicator: Written reports with relevant supporting documentation attached.

Organization responsible to receive item(s) of information and evaluate objective: SILC

Organization responsible for gathering item(s) of information: SILC

How Often item(s) of Information are needed: Quarterly
Part II: Narrative: Section 8 - State-Imposed Requirements

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

N/A