

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

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Louisiana

Agency: Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0056-01](#) 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.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS)

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.

Louisiana 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 Mark S. Martin, LRS Director.

Section 2: SPIL Development

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

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

Section 3: Independent Living Services

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

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

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

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

Yes

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

Section 4: Eligibility

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

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

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

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

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

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

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

Yes

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

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

Section 8: Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

Section 9: Signatures

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

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

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name Peter Lambousy

Title SILC Chairperson

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/16/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Mark S. Martin

Title LRS Director

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/22/2016

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:Mission

Goal Description:

The mission statement of the Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council is the following:
?The mission of Louisiana?s Independent Living program(s) is to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, facilitating integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

Louisiana?s IL partners promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including: consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services provides these IL services which support this mission through contracts with two Independent Living Centers funded by Part B funds.

There is no separate state agency for the blind. The Older Blind Program is not addressed in this State Plan. The agency did not provide input or funding to this state plan.

Goal Name:Increased Overall Awareness

Goal Description:

Residents of Louisiana have an increased overall awareness of the Independent Living philosophy and services. In Louisiana there are individuals with disabilities who are unfamiliar with the Independent Living philosophy and services available to them. The community as a whole is unaware of the alternative for institutional care which is Independent Living. Through collaboration of SILC members, these population groups can be targeted and appropriate information for services disseminated.

Goal Name:Increased Participation in IL initiatives

Goal Description:

Consumers have increased participation in Independent Living initiatives. Both the Council (Statewide Independent Living Council) and the Centers recognize that consumers play an invaluable role. Efforts made by both the Centers and the Council will encourage consumers to become more vocal in civic and political activities. This goal supports the mission as stated above.

Goal Name:Innovative Development Strategies

Goal Description:

Centers for Independent Living and other Independent Living service providers have enhanced service capacity through innovative development strategies. Decreases in the Centers' operating budget and growing populations in need of Independent Living services require strategy development to address these issues. The Statewide Independent Living Council provides a forum for collaboration using the diverse backgrounds of its members and the resources of information each member brings. This goal supports the mission as stated above.

Goal Name:Ensure SILC Autonomy

Goal Description:

SILC will adhere to federal regulations.

1.2 Objectives

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

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
Increased Overall Awareness	<p>Objective 1. Individuals with disabilities are informed of Independent Living philosophy and services.</p> <p>Activities for informing the above include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Center for Independent Living (CIL) information and updates presented at each SILC quarterly meeting. 2. Ongoing orienting of members of the SILC to resources and services of each council member. 	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>3. Attending events of targeted populations to educate and raise awareness on CIL philosophy, programs, initiatives, and Centers for Independent Living.</p> <p>4. Develop a SILC website and social media.</p> <p>5. Providing updates at the quarterly Council meetings regarding activities/events occurring in each member's local community that are opportunities for dissemination of IL philosophy and services information.</p> <p>6. Inviting post-secondary youth to participate in Council meetings.</p> <p>7. Meet annually at a CIL as a best practice to educate SILC members and CIL staff about the role of the SILC and services provided at CILs.</p> <p>8. Partnering with other Advocacy Groups (i.e. Advocacy Center, Client Assistance Program) by including reports from other agencies at each meeting regarding targeted populations and inviting guest presenters to the SILC meetings.</p>		
<p>Increased Participation in IL initiatives</p>	<p>Objective 1. To promote economic stability through employment for individuals with disabilities (IWD)</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>1. Collaborate with Louisiana Rehabilitation Council (LRC).</p> <p>2. To promote volunteer income tax assistance (VITA).</p> <p>3. Advocating for funds for employment supports for IWD.</p> <p>Objective 2. Supporting disability issues through community outreach or media outlets for systems advocacy</p> <p>Activities</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify disability issues and organize campaign in favor of IWD. 2. Advocate for improvement on transportation issues that affect individuals with disabilities. 3. Collaborate with emergency preparedness entities. 		
Innovative Development Strategies	<p>Objective 1. Ensuring the economic stability of SILC and CILs</p> <p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educating legislators regarding CILs and the services they provide while advocating for legislative appropriation of funds. 2. Exploring opportunities for resource development for activities of the SILC and CILs. 3. Sharing information regarding grants and other income sources among the SILC and CIL. <p>Objective 2. Utilizing best practices of successful SILCs and CILs</p> <p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participating in webinars, conference calls, and training from national groups. 2. Continue partnering with other CILs and disability related organizations to foster best practices. 	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Ensure SILC Autonomy	<p>Objective 1. Compliance with Federal Regulations</p> <p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and ensure compliance of federal regulations. 2. Formulate Policy and Procedure manuals by establishing a SILC committee to recommend proposed policy and procedures. 	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>3. Create job description for SILC staff by establishing a committee to develop a job description and an evaluation process based on the job description.</p> <p>4. Review Bylaws to ensure compliance with federal regulations and amend with necessary corrections as needed.</p> <p>Objective 2. Compliance with standards and indicators</p> <p>Activities</p> <p>1. Monitor ongoing updates.</p> <p>2. Prepare for the implementation of standards and indicators through training.</p> <p>3. Develop evaluation tool or checklist for reporting standards and indicators.</p>		
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1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

The Statewide Independent Living Council engages in an ongoing process of identifying unserved or underserved populations. This is consistent with Goal 1. Louisiana has several large cities but the state is made up of mostly rural parishes. Also there are certain subsets within the population that have traditionally been underserved. These include: the transitional youth, veterans, Native Americans, the deaf-blind community, addictive disorders and the mental health community.

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

The rural populations of Louisiana are all parishes lying outside the state`s major cities which include: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Lake Charles, Lafayette, New Orleans and Shreveport. These rural parishes are not confined to the northern or southern portions of the state. The above identified groups: the transitional youth, veterans, Native Americans, the deaf-blind community, addictive disorders and the mental health community reside statewide. They live in rural parishes and major cities and are not contained in one geographic region.

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

Technology is a method to reach underserved/unserved populations, which includes mass emails and information posted on the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs website. It creates minimum fiscal impact and has the potential to reach populations regardless of location. Outreach is also achieved through the activities set forth in Goal 1, underserved subsets of the populations. Developing relationships with local community leaders including clergy, school personnel, and elected officials, achieved through Goal 2, provides an outlet for reaching minority and underserved populations.

1.3 Financial Plan

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

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

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

Year 1 - 2017 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		305350		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			923736	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	95222			
Other Federal funds - other		33928		

Non-Federal funds - State funds	25771			
Non-Federal funds - Other		33928		
Total	120993	373206	923736	0

Year 2 - 2018 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		305350		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			923736	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	95222			
Other Federal funds - other		33928		
Non-Federal funds - State funds	25771			
Non-Federal funds - Other		33928		
Total	120993	373206	923736	0

Year 3 - 2019 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		305350		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			923736	

Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	95222			
Other Federal funds - other		33928		
Non-Federal funds - State funds	25771			
Non-Federal funds - Other		33928		
Total	120993	373206	923736	0

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

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

Part B and C funds are used together to fund the Centers in all of the Independent Living services they provide. Therefore objectives carried out by the Centers are supported by both Part B, which funds two Centers and their satellite offices, and Part C funds, which funds all four Centers. These CIL objectives include:

- Consumers are involved in advocacy efforts related to legislative activities.
- Consumers assume a more active role in community outreach.
- Independent Living initiatives are promoted through peer mentoring.
- Centers and service providers develop collaboration.
- Centers and service providers identify alternative funding for services.
- Consumers, providers, the Centers for Independent Living, and other stakeholders have improved working relationships at local, state, and national levels.

Chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds will not be used in the furtherance of any objectives.

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.

Louisiana coordinates Federal and State funding for Centers and IL services as follows:

IL Part B Program

\$305,350 Federal Funds, \$33,928 SSA Funds, \$33,928 Match from IL Centers-7/1/16-6/30/17

\$305,350 Federal Funds, \$33,928 SSA Funds, \$33,928 Match from IL Centers-7/1/17-6/30/18

\$305,350 Federal Funds, \$33,928 SSA Funds, \$33,928 Match from IL Centers-7/1/18-6/30/19

Purpose: IL Part B provides for the overall operations of the Center, including five core services: information and referral, peer counseling, Independent Living skills training, individual systems advocacy, youth transitioning from education to employment as well as nursing home transitions and other direct consumer services for individuals in order to enhance their ability to live Independently within the community.

IL Part C

Amount: \$ 923,736 7-1-16 through 6-30-17.

Sources: 100% federal

Purpose: IL Part C provides for overall operations of the Center and other direct consumer services for individuals in order to enhance their ability to live Independently within the community.

Statewide Independent Living Council

Amount: \$ 120,993 Source(s): \$95,222 Innovation Expansion and \$25,771- State General Funds

Purpose: Funding provided for the SILC to carry out duties outlined in Title VII 705(c) of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended.

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

The CILs have durable medical and other equipment donations from the community that are provided back to consumers as needed at no cost to the consumer. New Horizons and @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center inventory resources will be used as in-kind match in support of the IL Part B grant.

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. The Objectives promote a philosophy of Independent Living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and systems advocacy. The objectives serve to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of IWD and the integration and inclusion of IWD. The objectives help to provide, expand, and improve the provision of Independent Living services, to develop and support the network of CILs, and to improve working relationships between the DSE, the SILC and the CILs and other disability-related organizations.

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

The Centers for Independent Living are crucial to the SPIL process by providing the Council with information regarding consumer needs and consumer services. Also provided is input regarding the direction of Independent Living in Louisiana for the next three years. The Statewide Independent Living Council met in February to discuss planning and created a SPIL development team. Time lines were discussed and the goals and objectives for the next three years were decided upon during the Council meeting. All members contributed towards the SPIL development process. The IL Directors and staff addressed the needs and how the Council can work with them to support the IL provisions. The mission statement, goals and objectives and activities reflect the contributions of Center representatives. The IL Centers hosted public forums and gathered public comments and revisions.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

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

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

This State Plan recognizes that cooperation between multiple entities is necessary for the promotion of IL philosophy and to maximize the provision of IL services. The first step in fostering the working relationships between the appropriate entities is identification. Many entities have representation on the Council. One Louisiana IL Center has a Director that serves as a SILC member. The Council has a representative from the designated state entity, LRS. There is a representative from the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs. The Council is made up of other individuals who are advocates from different facets of the disability community. By serving together on this Council, these groups are brought together quarterly and have contact with each other year round. Establishing relationships between members fosters working relationships between entities. Much of the new SPIL highlights the importance of information sharing and using the meetings as a forum for groups to provide updates of work being done in

their area. Collaboration occurs at this stage with the sharing of ideas, so that assistance may come in the form of idea sharing. Each of these represented entities has contributed to the formation of this SPIL and has a commitment to carrying it out. In this way, shared goals and a commitment to working alongside each other to further the objectives will improve the quality of Independent Living philosophy and services within the state.

1.6 Coordination of Services

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

The Louisiana State Plan for 2017-2019 has a focus on improving relationships between all entities and stakeholders in the disability and Independent Living community. To achieve this improvement in relationships, the Council has set forth in objectives and activities programs and service providers to be identified. This includes special education, vocational education under LRS, developmental disabilities services, public health, mental health, housing, transportation, veterans' services, and programs administered under Social Security. Through identification and reaching out to these service providers, the Council then serves as a forum for the sharing of information and updates regarding the services they provide. In this way the Statewide Independent Living Council is a coordinating and collaborating body that shares what services are being provided and the funds are used for these services.

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.

New methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind developed by the OIB program (housed within LRS) will be communicated to the DSE representative, annually. These methods will be shared during a scheduled SILC meeting.

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

2.1 Scope and Extent

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

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

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

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

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

The CILs provide outreach to inform and educate the community regarding IL services in each of their service areas through events, activities, social media, and reports to the SILC.

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.

N/A

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.

Louisiana Rehabilitation Services provides Independent Living services through contracts awarded to two of the established IL Centers in Louisiana. No third party contracts are awarded.

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.

While the DSE monitors CILs for overall compliance with the Act, all decisions related to eligibility are made by the IL professionals in their respective 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.

Louisiana has 4 Part C funded Centers and 2 Part B funded Centers. There is one Executive Director for two of the four IL Centers (Resources for Independent Living located in Baton Rouge and Kenner)

1. New Horizons Independent Living Center located in Shreveport (Caddo Parish) serves the following parishes: Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Vernon, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn.

The Shreveport office address:

Gale Dean, Director "SPIL signatory"

1111 A Hawn Avenue

Shreveport, LA 71107

877-219-7327

There are also two satellite offices:

New Horizons - Central Louisiana

3717 Government Street, Suite 7

Alexandria, LA 71302

888-361-3596

New Horizons - Northeast Louisiana

2406 Ferrand Street, Suite 18

Monroe, LA 71201

800- 428-5505

2. Resources for Independent Living has 2 offices that receive Part C funding. One is located in New Orleans:

2001 21st Street

Kenner, LA 70062

877-505-2260

The other office is located in Baton Rouge:

3233 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 101A

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

877-505-2260

Together, they serve the following parishes in Southeast Louisiana: Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Terrebonne, Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Lower St. Martin, Point Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

3. The @Southwest Louisiana Independence Center serves the southwest area of the state with a main office in Lake Charles.

Mitch Granger, Director "SPIL signatory"

4320 Lake Street

Lake Charles, LA 70605

888-403-1062

There is one satellite office location:

850 Kaliste Saloom Rd. #118

Lafayette LA 70508

888-516-5009

The parishes served by the Lake Charles and Lafayette office include the following: Acadia, Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Point Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermillion and Vernon.

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).

All parishes are served by Part C Centers. Additional Part C funds that become available will be allocated to the existing Centers for Independent Living in the same proportion that the regular fiscal year Part C funds are distributed to existing Centers to serve the following underserved parishes:

New Horizons: Jackson, West Carroll, Lincoln

New Orleans area: Plaquemines, St. James, Terrebonne, St Bernard, St John

Baton Rouge area: East Feliciana, Iberville, Lower St. Martin, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana, Assumption, Tangipahoa

SLIC: Evangeline, Point Coupee, St Mary

If a Part C grant is relinquished or terminated, the same amount of Part C funds previously awarded would be used to establish a new CIL in the same service area as the previous Part C CIL to ensure that all areas of the state would have services.

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 DSE has assigned the IL Program under the general supervision of the Bureau Administrator and a part-time Program Coordinator to work with the CILs. Duties include:

- prepare and monitor CIL contracts
- manage and provide technical assistance for Title VII, Part B.
- disseminate, interpret, and assure compliance of federal and agency's policy relative to the IL program
- gather and analyze IL data
- prepare and submit reports relative to the development and implementation of the agency's operation and strategic plans, specific legislative audit requests and legislative impact studies

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 Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council receives its funding on a yearly basis through an Interagency Agreement between Governor's Office of Disability Affairs and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The amount is determined on a yearly basis from the budget approved by both the Council and the Designated State Entity (DSE). The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) staff submits monthly documentation of all expenditures to Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. These invoices are submitted in arrears of actual expenditures.

The Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council staff includes a Program Director whose salary is paid through the Interagency Agreement. The employees of Louisiana Rehabilitation Services and the Council work together to identify resources needed.

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.

Proper expenditure of funds and appropriate use of resources are reviewed to ensure that the Council is compliant with all rules and regulations of the state of Louisiana, including those concerning purchasing and procurement. Additionally, LRS conducts an annual audit of both programmatic and fiscal components of SILC activities.

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

The SILC maintains full authority over its budget and programmatic activities as enumerated in the Act. No portion of the resource plan supersedes the authority or compromises the independence of the SILC.

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

The resources of the Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council are transferred on an annual basis. No carry over of funding takes place, so the resources needed to carry out the State Plan are allocated each year and used accordingly.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

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

The Louisiana Statewide Independent Living Council is established by Executive Order JBE 16-14. The Executive Order empowers the Council to carry out all required functions and enables it to meet all federal regulations. For administrative purposes it is housed within the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs; administrative purposes include the provision of a physical office and administrative oversight. It remains an autonomous body for all other intents and purposes. All activities are carried out by the SILC and any action taken by the Council is at the discretion of its members.

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.

Appointment of members takes place through the Governor's Office in accordance with Executive Order JBE 16-14 and the SILC Bylaws. Potential SILC members must complete an application available on the website for Boards and Commissions of the Office of the Governor. Information requested in the application ensures that the Council will be made up of members with diverse backgrounds and come from different geographic locations across Louisiana. The applicants are also screened for those with a knowledge of Independent Living services and knowledge of the Centers through the Council's application. Over half of the Council members are citizens with varying disabilities and are not employed by a Center or a state agency. The Office of Boards and Commissions works with the SILC staff to ensure that members appointed by the Governor meet these requirements.

Council members serve a three year term and are eligible to serve no more than two consecutive terms. When a vacancy occurs during this three year term, members are appointed by the process discussed above by going through Boards and Commissions. The appointed member may then fill the remainder of the vacant term and is still eligible for two consecutive three year terms. The Governor's Office of Boards and Commission oversees that the three year terms are being enforced through regular monitoring in collaboration with the Senate and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The offices of the Council include: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. Each office is elected annually at a SILC meeting by all voting members of the Council.

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

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

The Executive Committee of the SILC directs the activities and objectives pursued by the SILC Program. The direction established by the State Plan every three years also provides the general framework from which the Program Director acts; the State Plan is created from the collaborative efforts of the entire Council. In this way, the work performed by the Program Director is in accordance to the parameters set by the Council.

Administrative supervision by the Governor's Office of Disability Affairs assists in the day to day management of funds, office practices, and compliance with state regulations.

As employees of the state, the SILC staff, adhere to all ethics laws and stay within the bounds of state law.

- 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 SILC Executive Committee at the discretion of the entire Council meets to ensure that SILC personnel remain committed to the direction established by the Council in the state plan. In this way, monitoring occurs so that no conflicts of interest are created. LRS conducts an annual programmatic and fiscal site review that ensures compliance with federal regulation and that no conflict of interest occurs. Evaluations will be performed by the SILC.

Part II: Narrative: Section 6 - Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing

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

Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living maintain individual policies and procedures related to the requirements of this section; these policies and procedures are monitored by the DSE for compliance with the Act as a condition for receiving Part B funds.

- 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.

Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living maintain individual policies and procedures related to the requirements of this section; these policies and procedures are monitored by the DSE for compliance with the Act as a condition for receiving Part B funds.

- 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.

Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living maintain individual policies and procedures related to the requirements of this section; these policies and procedures are monitored by the DSE for compliance with the Act as a condition for receiving Part B funds.

- 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.

Executive Directors of Centers for Independent Living maintain individual policies and procedures related to the requirements of this section; these policies and procedures are monitored by the DSE for compliance with the Act as a condition for receiving Part B funds.

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.

Independent third-party audits are conducted for each CIL.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

CILs are subject to record-retention laws and policies established by the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office.

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

CILs will annually submit reports to Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The DSE also conducts yearly site reviews of all Centers receiving Part B funds.

- 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.

CILs will annually submit reports to Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Louisiana Rehabilitation Services. The DSE also conducts yearly site reviews of all Centers receiving Part B funds.

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.

Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under Louisiana's 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.

Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.

- 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.

An individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILs and CIL program is determined in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

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

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

- 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.

Any individual who is present in Louisiana and who is otherwise eligible for IL services will not be excluded from receiving IL services based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.

6.5 Independent Living Plans

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

CILs provide services to individuals with disabilities according to an IL plan developed by the individual and the IL specialist, 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.

CILs provide information regarding the CAP to all consumers according to applicable laws and regulations and in alternate formats as necessary.

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.

Policies and Procedures related to consumer information, privacy and protection are part of each CIL's operations. Additionally, trainings and signatures of confidentiality agreements are required for all IL staff. Consumer records are maintained in a secure environment.

Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

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

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
<p>Increased Overall Awareness</p>	<p>In order to increase overall awareness, individuals with disabilities are informed of Independent Living philosophy and services.</p> <p>Evaluating the effectiveness of the activities:</p> <p>Activity 1 The Centers for Independent Living will present updates in each SILC meeting on Independent Living services as evidenced by inclusion on the SILC meeting agenda and the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Activity 2 During each calendar year a SILC orientation will be included in a meeting and be reflected on the SILC meeting agenda and in the meeting minutes. Each SILC member will be given opportunity to give updates on their effective resources.</p> <p>Activity 3 During each meeting the SILC members and SILC Program Director will report on events attended in the community to raise awareness of IL philosophy and programs which will be documented in SILC meeting minutes.</p> <p>Activity 4 At the SILC meeting, the SILC Program Director will give an update on progress made toward SILC website, if possible. If not possible, the IL Centers will work to develop a SILC website.</p> <p>Activity 5 Meeting minutes will reflect updates by each SILC member of activities/events occurring in each member's local community that are opportunities to disseminate information on IL philosophy and services.</p> <p>Activity 6 Post-secondary youth will be invited to participate in SILC meeting and their participation will be reflected in the meeting minutes and attendance log. Also, members will discuss invitations offered and responses and it will be reported in meeting minutes.</p> <p>Activity 7 Annually, a CIL will host the SILC meeting and educate SILC members about the services provided and give the CIL staff an opportunity</p>

	<p>to learn about the duties of the SILC. This will be reflected on the SILC agenda and in the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Activity 8 Advocacy groups will be invited to participate in SILC meeting and their participation will be reflected in the meeting minutes and attendance log. Also, members will discuss invitations offered and responses, and they will be reported in meeting minutes.</p>
<p>Increased Participation in IL initiatives</p>	<p>Increasing participation in IL initiatives will be accomplished by promoting economic stability through employment for individuals with disabilities and supporting disability issues through community outreach or media outlets for systems advocacy.</p> <p>Methods used to evaluate:</p> <p>Objective 1:</p> <p>Activity 1 SILC Program Director will attend the LRC meeting and provide information on SILC activities and report back to the SILC information learned at the LRC meeting.</p> <p>Activity 2 Volunteer income tax assistance (VITA) is promoted on CIL website, and social media will be used to promote the service. The number of VITA services provided will be reported by the CILs during the meeting and reflected in the minutes.</p> <p>Activity 3 Create a one page fact sheet and disperse to appropriate parties. The fact sheet will be shared at the SILC meeting and retained by the SILC Program Director.</p> <p>Objective 2:</p> <p>Activity 1, 2, & 3 In order to support and advocate for disability issues, guest speakers will be invited to provide training and/or report on disability issues pertaining to their area of expertise (i.e. transportation, emergency preparedness, etc.)</p>
<p>Innovative Development Strategies</p>	<p>Innovative development strategies include ensuring the economic stability of the SILC and CILs and using best practices of successful SILCs and CILs.</p> <p>Objective 1</p> <p>Activity 1 Any SILC member that educates the legislature regarding CILs and IL services will report on that activity at a SILC meeting and it will be reflected in the meeting minutes.</p>

	<p>Activity 2 The SILC Program Director and SILC members will discuss and brainstorm ideas for fundraising and resource development for the SILC and CILs during the SILC meeting and it will be reflected in the minutes.</p> <p>Activity 3 The SILC Program Director and SILC members will share information on grants and other income sources as they become aware, and it will be captured in the meeting minutes.</p> <p>Objective 2</p> <p>Activity 1 and 2 The SILC Program Director and SILC members will share best practices learned from other CILs, disability related organization, webinars, conference calls, and training from national groups during the meeting and it will be reflected in the meeting minutes.</p>
<p>Ensure SILC Autonomy</p>	<p>SILC autonomy will be ensured by compliance with federal regulations and standards and indicators.</p> <p>Objective 1</p> <p>Activity 1 Training materials will be shared with SILC members and federal regulations will be reviewed at SILC meetings and reflected in the minutes.</p> <p>Activity 2 Establish a SILC committee to recommend proposed policies and procedures. SILC adopts policy and procedure manual.</p> <p>Activity 3 Establish a SILC committee to recommend job description and evaluation process. SILC adopts job description and evaluation process.</p> <p>Activity 4 Establish a SILC committee to review and amend By-laws to ensure compliance with federal regulations. SILC adopts amended By-laws.</p> <p>Objective 2</p> <p>Activity 1, 2, and 3 Establish a SILC Committee to develop an evaluation tool or checklist for reporting standards and indicators. SILC adopts and implements checklist and reports out findings during the SILC meeting and reflected in the meeting minutes.</p>

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

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

N/A