

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Northern Marianas for 2017-2019

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Northern Marianas

Agency: Northern Marianas Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0007-01](#) 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.

CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

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.

CNMI 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 Arlene Kay A. Yamagata, M.S., CRC, OVR 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 Emeterio Fitial

Title Chairperson

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/24/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Arlene Kay A. Yamagata, M.S., CRC

Title OVR Director

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/24/2016

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:5 Core IL Services

Goal Description:

Enhance and expand the five (5) core IL services (Information & Referral, IL Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Individual and System Advocacy, and Transition) in a manner that will maximize benefits to the greatest number of individuals with significant disabilities.

Goal Name:Collaboration with Disability Network Partners

Goal Description:

Work in collaboration with the CNMI Disability Network Partners especially the State Rehabilitation Council, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Council on Developmental Disabilities, Individuals with disabilities, Family members, and Employers to provide quality services and supports to dual customers resulting in competitive integrated employment for individuals with disabilities consistent with the their interests, skills, abilities, capabilities, informed choice, etc.

Goal Name:Transportation

Goal Description:

Continue to support the efforts of the CNMI Disability Network Partners especially the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority to improve and expand available, affordable, and accessible public transportation services including in those areas considered unserved and/or underserved (e.g. Tinian and Rota).

Goal Name:Accessible Recreational Opportunities

Goal Description:

Promote and support the efforts of community partners to enrich the lives of CNMI residents with disabilities and build a healthier community by pursuing and making available accessible recreational opportunities.

1.2 Objectives

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

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
5 Core IL Services	1.1-Ensure that the SILC members and CLI are knowledgeable about IL Services by participating and/or attending local, national and regional trainings and conferences to effectively promote and support strategies that impact independent living services. Presentations shall be reviewed and approved by the SILC Executive Committee. The DSE will ensure that appropriate information is disseminated.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
5 Core IL Services	1.2-DSE, in collaboration with the SILC, will ensure that funds are allocated to provide transportation services and the five (5) core IL services, consumer information programs, and community awareness materials to empower consumers with significant disabilities to enable them to become independent and productive in the community.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
5 Core IL Services	1.3-SILC and CLI, in collaboration with the Disability Network Partners, will develop strategies and coordinate outreach that will enhance the ability of CLI to deliver effective services on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
5 Core IL Services	1.4-SILC and CLI will increase the community's engagement in disability-related events. The DSE, SILC, and CLI will participate in and/or coordinate workshops, seminars, and/or educational activities that promote IL services. All related SILC costs will be covered through the SILC resource plan and all CLI costs will be covered through the Center's operating budget.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Collaboration with Disability Network Partners	2.1-SILC and CLI will partner with appropriate entities to facilitate increased employment in competitive integrated settings.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

Collaboration with Disability Network Partners	2.2-CLI will ensure that consumers are provided with IL skills related to employment.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Transportation	3.1-CLI and DNP will develop an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) regarding transportation services to people with disabilities.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Transportation	3.2-CLI will work collaboratively with COTA and the Disability Network Partners to ensure that trainings to individuals with disabilities on accessing the ParaTransit services are provided.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Accessible Recreational Opportunities	4.1-SILC, CLI & partners will identify funding that could support accessibility to Recreational Facilities for individuals with disabilities.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Accessible Recreational Opportunities	4.2-SILC and CLI will continue efforts with the DNP to advocate for more system change of Recreational Facilities in the CNMI, i.e. swimming pools, beaches, movie theaters and restaurants to be accessible for individuals with disabilities.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Accessible Recreational Opportunities	4.3-SILC, CLI, and DNP will advocate for universal accessibility for government and private buildings that provide public accommodation.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Accessible Recreational Opportunities	4.4-SILC and CLI will establish and/or expand network communications with service providers and policymakers to address IL services. All activities will be in compliance with lobbying and advertising regulations pursuant to OMB Circular A-87, Attachment B.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Accessible Recreational Opportunities	4.5-ADAAG training will be provided to the CLI, SILC, DNP, and other interested individuals.	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

In preparation for development of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), the DSE and the Statewide Independent Living Council held two public hearings to solicit input from individuals with disabilities and other interested community members. These hearings were conducted through Video Teleconference at the Northern Marianas College VTC room for the islands of Tinian and Rota on 6/10/16 and in Saipan on 6/13/16 at the Center for Living Independently. Other opportunities for input included forums at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Council. Information obtained from public comments indicates the need for continuing targeted outreach. The populations designated for targeted outreach efforts are people with physical or mental health disabilities and ethnic minority groups with disabilities on the islands of Tinian and Rota and rural areas of Saipan. Ethnic minorities on the three major islands in the CNMI include Chamorro, Carolinian, Filipino, Chuukese, and Palauan populations. DSU VR counselors conduct monthly trips to the islands of Tinian and Rota. They conduct outreach to older individuals who have developed age-related disabilities and individuals with the most significant disabilities who require the provision of Independent Living Services. The Executive Director of the CLI-CNMI or designee also travels to Tinian and Rota to participate in consumer education and community awareness activities. SILC will host community forum(s) annually to include statewide disability-related networks for the purpose of assessing the community's Independent Living needs and for furthering collaboration on relevant projects or activities.

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

In order to increase the Commonwealth's capacity to accommodate individuals with diverse backgrounds, cultures and disabilities, the DSE and SILC will work to identify under-represented sectors within the community and provide technical assistance to better meet the needs of the diverse populations with disabilities. The DSU VR Caseworker conducts outreach and orientation at the Office on Aging and makes home visits to individuals with age-related disabilities seeking Independent Living Services. Local eye clinics also make referrals of individuals seeking assistance and services of assistive technology devices and/or skills training. Inter-island travels are also scheduled to provide services to unserved and/or underserved populations on Tinian and Rota. Ethnic minorities including Chamorro, Carolinian, and other speakers in the CNMI are concentrated on Saipan. The CNMI Office on Aging confirms that the main populations of older individuals with age-related disabilities are on Saipan.

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

A majority of individuals residing in the CNMI are from minority backgrounds. Therefore, it is plausible to conclude that a majority of individuals with significant disabilities residing in the CNMI come from minority backgrounds. The CLI-CNMI and DSU (OVR) report that a significant majority of their clientele from FY 2013 to FY 2015 represent individuals from minority backgrounds including Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders, Asians, and American Indian or Alaska Native.

The SILS network recognizes and appreciates the individuality of each person who are seeking and/or receiving independent living services. Therefore, each case will be assessed individually and provided with services that are carefully tailored to the individual's unique disability and

circumstances including accommodations with respect to language and disability-related impediment. In all circumstances, dignity and respect will be afforded to all SILS consumers with the assurance of equitable access to programs and services consistent with Federal and CNMI laws and regulations. The SILS network will identify and utilize existing resources to the maximum extent possible to address the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority backgrounds.

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	8331	19439		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			95096	
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)	30000			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				

Total	38331	19439	95096	0
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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	8331	19439		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			95096	
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)	30000			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	38331	19439	95096	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	8331	19439		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			95096	
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)	30000			

Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	38331	19439	95096	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 Part C funds will support the objectives listed in 1.2A.

In collaboration with SILC, the DSE, in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, issues and announces a Request for Proposal for the provision of Independent Living Services. The DSU will allocate regular Part B funds to the successful bidder to support the SPIL objectives such as the five (5) core services and transportation. For the Objectives listed in 1.2A, all related SILC costs consistent with the SILC's statutory duties in 34 CFR 364.21(g) would be covered through the SILC resource plan of Part B funds. The CLI costs will be covered through the Center's operating budget of Part C and Part B funds. Events listed in the objectives are usually free of charge except for the travel costs of participants, because numerous entities organize these workshops, seminars, and conferences where DSE, SILC, and the CLI will have opportunities to attend or be a part of by setting up booth stations including the Northern Marianas College-University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (NMC-UCEDD), the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the CNMI Autism Society, the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA), the Ayuda Network, CLI-CNMI, the CNMI Public School System Special Education Program, the CNMI Arts Council, etc. When the SILC or the CLI coordinates workshops, seminars, and educational activities, they usually partner with the Disability Network Partners (DNP) and other agencies to set up an informational booth. Tables, chairs, and venue costs are provided for by the hosting organization or government agency. SPIL funds are mainly used for travel to-and-from the sister islands of Tinian and Rota for these events. The SILC's role in hosting these forums is to ensure that the public is provided an opportunity to comment on the SPIL goals, objectives, and strategies.

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.

\$8,331 of Title VII, Part B funds or 30% of its total grant with the support of Title I, Basic Support under Section 101(a)(18) of the Act will be used for the SILC resource plan; and \$19,439 of Title VII, Part B funds or 70% of its total grant will be allocated to the selected contractor for the provision of the five (5) core IL services and transportation.

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 DSU provides support services to the SILC by the use of facility space, access to office equipment, and clerical services from a designated DSU staff. The designated DSU staff is to coordinate council's meetings, activities, disseminating public notices, etc.

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

None

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.

In developing the CNMI SPIL, stakeholders carefully crafted the document to ensure that the philosophy of Independent Living is reflected in the goals and objectives consistent with Chapter 1 Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act that supports the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities in the CNMI. The SPIL focuses on efforts that will help to improve the provision of IL services in our island communities. Activities are aligned with the mission and vision of our local Center for Living Independently (CLI), and the SPIL reflects the efforts that will be undertaken to work in collaboration and coordination with the Disability Network Partners (DNP) and other relevant stakeholders to ensure commitment to the values of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy resulting in increased independence for our target population.

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 Executive Director for the CLI-CNMI, the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Executive Committee, and representatives from the DSE were involved in the development of the SPIL objectives.

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 following steps will be taken to maximize cooperation, coordination and working relationships:

? On-going communication among the SILS delivery network and other partner agencies via telephone and email

? Attendance at meetings of the CNMI Disability Network Partners

? Attendance at meetings of the CNMI Transition Coalition

? Attendance at the quarterly meetings of the CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council

? Attendance at the quarterly meetings of the CNMI State Rehabilitation Council

? Support of and participation in activities via cost-sharing arrangement with the CNMI Disability Network Partners, Transition Coalition, VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter, etc.

Entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate:

? State Rehabilitation Council

? Council on Developmental Disabilities/Assistive Technology Program

? Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

? Public School System Special Education Program/Special Education State Advisory Panel/Transition Coalition

? Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation/Division of Public Health/Community Guidance Center

? Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority

? University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

? Independent Living Group

? VOICES of the CNMI-Tinian Chapter

? Autism Society of the CNMI

? Social Security Administration

? Tinian Mayor's Office

? Rota Mayor's Office

Miscellaneous:

A collaborative framework among the DSE, Statewide Independent Living Council, and the CLI-CNMI is in place to promote the purpose of the Independent Living Program and Services.

The SILC membership is composed of a representative from the CLI-CNMI and the State Rehabilitation Council. The DSU/OVR director is an ex-officio member who attends the meetings of the SILC Executive Committee and the general membership.

The DSU (OVR) provides support services to the SILC by allowing the use of facility space, access to office equipment and technology, and assistance from DSU staff in the form of clerical and/or secretarial services. The DSU (OVR), SILC, and the CLI-CNMI maintain a close working relationship and consult with each other regularly via in-person visits as well as both telephone and e-mail correspondences. Networking is extended at meetings of the SILC and other boards or councils.

In addition, the DSU (OVR) assists the SILC by organizing and coordinating meetings that are scheduled on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for outreach and awareness activities. The DSU (OVR) also coordinates council training sessions that are often held jointly with the SRC. The SILC and SRC schedule and participate in a joint general membership meeting held during the fourth quarter of each year. The DSU (OVR) and CLI-CNMI will continue to be represented and actively participate in council-sanctioned functions or activities.

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.

In an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication of services with other Federal, State, and local programs with regards to the delivery of IL services, the State Independent Living Services (SILS) network, service providers, and partner agencies will continue to engage in effective communication that allows for the sharing of pertinent information and updates on a regular basis. Stakeholders will continue to be encouraged to attend meetings or forums that normally also include discussions of concerns, solutions, and best practices for most effective IL service delivery. Meetings of many, if not all, government boards, councils, and panels are open to the public and thus partners are encouraged to utilize these forums in a manner most beneficial to them. All stakeholders are required to be knowledgeable of the various programs in the community and to keep informed of latest developments because a primary IL service is after all Information & Referral. By keeping well informed, programs are in a better position to avoid duplication of services resulting in a more effective utilization of limited resources. Furthermore, sharing of information is made easy these days with the Internet that allows for e-mail correspondence and the maintaining of information such as on websites as a manner of providing quick access to information.

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.

In the event the DSU obtains information regarding best practices for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind and would like to incorporate those new methods into the State plan, a meeting with the DSU, SILC, and CLI-CNMI will be arranged for the necessary discussions to take place. If the stakeholders agree to incorporate the new methods into the State plan, an ad hoc committee will be established for this purpose. Upon completion of the work of the ad hoc committee, the proposed amendments to the State plan will be made available for the public comment period. The final draft of the amended State plan will be approved by the SILC during a special meeting or at their next general membership meeting, whichever comes sooner. The DSU, on behalf of the SILS network, will submit the amended State plan to the Independent Living Program of the Administration for Community Living under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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	No
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	No	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	No	Yes

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

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	No	No	No
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	No	No

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

This SPIL's priority is to ensure the provision of the five (5) core Independent Living Services including transportation as well as collaborating with stakeholders to ensure quality services to employers in their efforts to promote the employment of qualified individuals with significant disabilities in integrated settings. As is reflected in this SPIL, the target populations are those individuals with significant disabilities who are unserved or underserved in remote areas with limited access to transportation especially in the sister islands of Tinian and Rota, funding permitting. Services to individuals with limited job skills to increase their employability, which includes transition students, will also be a focus.

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 DSU (CNMI OVR) considers the financial need of consumers for the purpose of determining the extent of their participation in the costs of Independent Living Services. If comparable services and benefits are available, they must be utilized to meet in whole or in part the cost of Independent Living Services. The five (5) core IL services including transportation and other no-cost services are exempt from financial participation. SSI, SSDI, TANF, food stamps, general assistance, annual income less than 330% of Federal HHS Poverty Guidelines or those not required to file a Federal income tax return the year prior to application are exempt from financial participation.

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.

Each year, the DSU (CNMI OVR), through the Division of Procurement and Supply, announces a Request for Proposal (RFP) from qualified contractors to provide Independent Living Services to eligible individuals with a wide range of significant disabilities to improve their ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently at home or in the community.

The successful bidder will be awarded a contract to ensure the provision of the five (5) core Independent Living Services (Information and Referral, IL Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Individual and System Advocacy, and Transition) as well as Transportation services.

The relationship between the DSE and the contractor providing IL Services including transportation will be governed by the terms and conditions of the contract consistent with Federal and CNMI laws and regulations.

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.

N/A

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

3.1 Existing Network

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

There exists in the CNMI only one Part C-funded non-profit organization called the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI, or CLI-CNMI (SPIL Signatory). The mission of the CLI-CNMI is to ensure the rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated within the community, outside of an institutional care setting. The CLI-CNMI started out as a satellite office for the Hawaii Center for Independent Living in 2001, but through the systemic advocacy efforts of a group of individuals with disabilities, the CLI-CNMI was established as an independent agency in 2005. From its founding to the present day, the CLI-CNMI is governed by a board of directors and administered by an executive director.

The CLI-CNMI continues to offer the five core IL services of Information and Referral, IL Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Individual and System Advocacy, and Transition, which is a new core IL service consistent with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014.

Resources and circumstances permitting, the CLI-CNMI ensures a statewide IL services provision to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

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).

The IL service delivery network in the CNMI, primarily comprised of the CLI-CNMI, SILC, and DSU (OVR), continue to be in agreement that further expansion of the network to increase services to the islands of Tinian and Rota, which are traditionally considered unserved and/or underserved areas due to geography, remains a priority. A public hearing held in Tinian on May 13, 2013 confirmed a great need to establish a center to better support the independent living needs of their residents. However, due to limited fiscal and other resources, all (3) entities will continue to make every effort to work in collaboration and coordination and to solicit the support of the heads of the Tinian and Rota municipalities as well as the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP).

In the event additional Part C funds become available, those funds will be allocated to the CLI-CNMI to support the activities of the sole Center.

In the event that Part C funds are terminated or relinquished, Part B funds will be utilized as follows:

? 30% will be set aside to support SILC activities through an approved Resource Plan, and

? The remaining 70% will be allocated as follows:

o For the continued provision of Independent Living Services statewide,

o For the operation of the existing Center for Living Independently ? located in the service area of Saipan ? such as power, water, and Internet access that will in part be supported by the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP) including but not limited to the OVR, SRC, SILC, and Council on Developmental Disabilities through leveraging of resources and expertise including in-kind contribution, and

o Partial funds will be allocated to Tinian and Rota to improve or increase IL service delivery in those communities.

? Considering that CNMI's Part B funds are very minimal at an estimated \$27,000 only, the DNP will work with the local government including the municipalities of Tinian and Rota to identify additional funding assistance that will be sufficient to build capacity and to sustain the IL program across the islands.

(Note: Negotiations regarding continued use of the Center, despite a termination of Part C funds, will be pursued with the appropriate entities including the CNMI Government. The DNP intends to fully maximize use of the Center as a one-stop training center that also supports job club activities as well as be the venue for DNP meetings and public hearings or consumer forums.)

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 DSU provides the following administrative support services to the SILS (Part B) program:

? Budget planning and development assistance to the SILC

? Assistance in evaluating the SILS program

? Financial management assistance through the CNMI Department of Finance to the SILS program

? Recordkeeping assistance through the CNMI Department of Finance to the SILS network

CNMI is not a Section 723 State.

The DSE for the CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council is the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

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 DSU staff provides guidance and assistance to the SILC in the development of their Resource Plan. Each year, at their fourth general membership meeting, the SILC reviews and approves their Resource Plan for the next fiscal year, which includes the activities to be carried out such as inter-island travel to make possible the travel of Tinian and Rota members to attend the general membership and/or Executive Committee meetings in Saipan, off-island training and conferences to expose members to a greater understanding of the IL philosophy and movement and the current issues affecting the IL population both regionally and nationally, conference room rental and honorarium/trainer's fee to support local workshops by the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP), and the printing of brochures and other materials, among other things.

The SILC does not have staff or personnel; however, the DSU assigns certain staff to provide assistance in the latter's area of expertise. For example, the DSU Fiscal Officer prepares the necessary PR/POs and tracks the council's expenditures for reporting purposes at each general membership meeting, and the DSU Administrative Assistant provides logistical support to the SILC by preparing travel authorizations and coordinating the meetings of the Council including publishing the public notices and making available reasonable accommodations upon request. The DSU Director ensures that timely and accurate meeting minutes are produced and safeguarded as well as provides the Council with program updates.

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

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

The DSU (OVR), through its Fiscal Officer, provides guidance and technical assistance to the SILC in the development of their resource plan. Each year at the fourth general membership meeting of the SILC, the resource plan is reviewed and approved by the full Council. The resource plan is developed at a level that enables the SILC to meet its obligation to compensate members, support meetings and council member trainings, and enhance public awareness and participation in SILC activities, among other things. The DSU monitors use of SILC funds and

provides accountability on the disposition of these funds. The DSU Fiscal Officer works closely with the SILC Fiscal Officer to monitor the SILC's budget. All financial matters including payment of invoices are handled by the DSU.

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

The SILC resource plan does not include any condition or requirement that may compromise the Council's independence.

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

The SILC, CLI-CNMI and DSU (OVR) are in agreement that the SILS program will be in a better fiscal position, in light of limited funding, to consider maximizing the use of existing resources for the implementation of State plan activities. In FY 2016, the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP), of which the SILS program is a member, have been very successful at collaborating as well as cost-sharing in statewide events (e.g., WIOA training and technical assistance and Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness Month activities) that benefited a wider audience including people with varying types and degrees of disabilities. Title VII Chapter 1, Part B funds continue to support the activities of the SPIL.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

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

The CNMI SILC was established as an independent, autonomous organization that is independent of the DSU and all other State agencies. Members of the SILC are appointed by the Governor consistent with Federal and/or State laws and regulations. The DSU Director serves on the SILC in an ex-officio capacity.

5.3 Appointment and Composition

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

The CNMI Governor, in accordance with Sec. 705(b) of the Act, appoints members of the SILC. The Governor selects members after soliciting recommendations from a broad range of representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Currently, the CNMI SILC is comprised of seven (7) members, of which a majority are individuals with disabilities. The current membership includes the Executive Director of the lone

Center for Independent Living (aka CLI-CNMI), DSU Director, one (1) parent/guardian of an individual with a disability who also happens to be the Tinian representative, two (2) advocates of and for individuals with disabilities, a representative from organizations that provide services for individuals with disabilities (P&A), and one (1) other appropriate individual (Rota representative). The SILC is working towards increasing its membership to include representative(s) from private businesses.

The SILC ensures that its members are qualified to hold the positions to which they have been appointed. The current membership is comprised of statewide representation of individuals with a broad range of disabilities who continue to learn from each other about the SILS program and services.

A majority of the SILC's voting members are individuals with disabilities who are not employed by any State agency or Center.

The SILC Chairperson is elected by his/her peers annually during the last general membership meeting of the Council. His/her term in office takes effect the new fiscal year beginning October 1.

Except for a member appointed to fulfill a vacancy occurring from an unexpired term, whereupon such appointment should be for the remainder of that term, each member of the SILC shall serve for a term of three (3) years. No member of the Council may serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms except for the current CLI-CNMI Executive Director unless another Center is open in the CNMI. A member who completes two (2) full consecutive terms may be reappointed to the SILC after a meaningful break in service when a new vacancy for which that member is eligible becomes available.

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 SILC does not have staff or personnel; however, the DSU assigns certain staff to provide assistance in their areas of expertise. For example, the DSU Fiscal Officer prepares the necessary PR/POs and tracks the Council's expenditures for reporting purposes at each general membership meeting, and the DSU Administrative Assistant provides logistical support to the SILC by preparing travel authorizations and coordinating the meetings of the Council. The DSU Director ensures that timely and accurate meeting minutes are produced and safeguarded as well as provides the Council with program updates.

- 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.

N/A

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.

As previously mentioned, the SILC does not have any staff or personnel. However, the DSU helps the Council to accomplish their administrative and/or clerical tasks. In addition, the CLI-CNMI is delegated with the following responsibilities:

? Determination of an individual?s eligibility for services

? Development of an IL plan for individuals who receive these services

? Provision of the five (5) core IL services: Information and Referral, IL Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Individual and System Advocacy, and Transition.

In addition, the CLI-CNMI Executive Director has been trained and continues to be qualified in the delivery of the core IL services. She has worked in the field of Independent Living since 2001 and has the knowledge, skills, and abilities to develop IL services and support the CLI-CNMI. Center staff and volunteers continue to receive on-going training facilitated by its Executive Director and through the various partnerships through the CNMI Disability Network Partners (DNP). The Center is run by and for people with disabilities.

- 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.

Entities providing direct IL services, in this instance the CLI-CNMI, have the capability of communicating with consumers in their native languages as needed. Center staff and volunteers are fluent in the three (3) official languages of the CNMI, which are English, Chamorro, and Carolinian, with the last two (2) being the indigenous languages of the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, the CLI-CNMI has strong ties to other members of the Disability Network Partners (e.g., Assistive Technology Center) who generously make their services available so as to help the CLI-CNMI effectively communicate with consumers who require alternative modes of communication.

- 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 responsibility for complying with the service provider requirements is addressed in the CLI-CNMI grant application for Title VII Part C 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.

The DSE and CLI-CNMI 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.

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.

Fiscal policies of the DSE, SILC, and CLI-CNMI adhere to the required fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that are 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 and comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

The DSE and CLI maintain financial records that document and fully disclose the amount, procured services and description, vendor name, and other records determined to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. The DSE, in partnership with the SILC and CLI-CNMI, annually submit a 704 Report. The Department of Finance, with concurrence by the DSU, submits the Financial Status Reporting Form SF-269.

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

The DSE, in partnership with the SILC and CLI-CNMI, annually submits a 704 Report. The Department of Finance, with concurrence by the DSU, submits the Financial Status Reporting Form SF-269.

- 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 DSE, SILC, and CLI-CNMI will grant access to the CNMI Public Auditor or other auditing firm 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 DSE and CLI-CNMI have policies in place which describe the eligibility criteria of an individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), who is eligible for IL services under the State Independent Living Services and CLI-CNMI 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 DSE and CLI-CNMI make available information about IL services to individuals with significant disabilities. Information is provided in a manner readily understandable by individuals with significant disabilities including in their native language as appropriate. Information may be provided in alternative formats upon request. When needed, the DSE and CLI-CNMI will identify and utilize to the maximum extent possible comparable services for the purposes of this section.

A primary service of the SILS network is to effectively refer individuals with significant disabilities to other services and programs for which they may be eligible.

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

The DSE and CLI-CNMI have policies in place which describe the eligibility criteria of an individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), who is eligible for IL services under the State Independent Living Services and CLI-CNMI programs.

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

The DSE and CLI-CNMI, consistent with Federal and CNMI laws, apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individuals applying for IL services. Furthermore, the eligibility requirements

are applied without regard to the particular service needs or the anticipated cost of services required by an applicant or the income level of an applicant or the applicant's family.

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

The DSE and CLI-CNMI do not impose any residency requirement to exclude from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the CNMI and who is otherwise eligible for IL services.

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 DSE and CLI-CNMI agree to the provision of IL services in accordance 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.

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 DSE and CLI-CNMI provide notice to individuals seeking or receiving IL services about the availability of the Client Assistance Program (CAP), the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP. Notices in accessible formats are provided upon request. CAP information is discussed at time of application, during plan development and amendment, and at closure. Program brochures also contain CAP information.

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 DSE and CLI-CNMI maintain policies and procedures intended to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information including photographs and lists of names.

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
5 Core IL Services	<p>For Objective 1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Members will be provided with the opportunity to participate in trainings and conferences, with off-island activities supported by the SILC resource plan. * Information obtained from trainings/conferences will be shared with the members, including recommendations on effective activities to further the mission of the SILC consistent with the SPIL. * Members will participate in the annual SILC orientation to increase knowledge about IL services.
5 Core IL Services	<p>For Objective 1.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Completed Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of statewide Independent Living Services in the CNMI. The successful bidder will be awarded contract for such purpose accordingly. * Quarterly monitoring and review of contractor's activities and reports to ensure provision of the five (5) core IL services and transportation.
5 Core IL Services	<p>For Objective 1.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SILC/CLI will ensure their participation in all DNP monthly meetings. * SILC/CLI will participate in the Transition Coalition monthly meetings. * SILC/CLI will cost share in the DNP quarterly disabilities newsletter. * SILC/CLI will participate in relevant DNP-sponsored community activities. * Gradual increase in the number of referrals to CLI.

<p>5 Core IL Services</p>	<p>For Objective 1.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Through the SILC and CLI's efforts, the community's engagement at disability-related events will gradually increase over the FY 2016 baseline numbers. * SILC/CLI will collect baseline data on the number of community members who attend such events. * SILC/CLI will cost-share in relevant community events that target unserved and/or underserved disability populations.
<p>Collaboration with Disability Network Partners</p>	<p>For Objective 2.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Number of CLI consumers who achieve their employment goals by finding employment in competitive integrated settings. * Number of CLI consumers who have developed Employment Goals in their Independent Living Plans. * Percentage increase/decrease of individuals with significant disabilities who obtain employment through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) from the previous year.
<p>Collaboration with Disability Network Partners</p>	<p>For Objective 2.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * CLI will ensure that curriculum and resource materials are available to trainers to provide IL skills related to employment. * CLI will actively engage/collaborate with partners to ensure that employment-related activities are afforded to consumers whenever possible. * Cost-sharing with partners for employment-related activities.
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>For Objective 3.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Approved Memorandum of Understanding, adopted by the SILC.
<p>Transportation</p>	<p>For Objective 3.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SILC/CLI will participate in collaborative efforts with partners to offer training on how to access the paratransit service system. * Cost-sharing in the above efforts as appropriate consistent with the SILC resource plan.

<p>Accessible Recreational Opportunities</p>	<p>For Objective 4.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Establishment of an ad hoc committee to identify accessibility funding.
<p>Accessible Recreational Opportunities</p>	<p>For Objective 4.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Meeting(s) with DNP and other partners as appropriate. * Formulation of a Strategic Plan inclusive of all DNP partners specifically targeting activities that will affect system change. * Site monitoring of Recreational Facilities will be conducted and reported to the SILC denoting any changes.
<p>Accessible Recreational Opportunities</p>	<p>For Objective 4.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SILC and CLI will reach out to at least three (3) government and/or private entities yearly, to educate regarding the benefits of universal design/accessibility. * Reporting of progress at the SILC general membership meeting.
<p>Accessible Recreational Opportunities</p>	<p>For Objective 4.4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * SILC/CLI will ensure that information regarding IL activities are disseminated to service providers and policymakers. * Attendance of service providers and policymakers at disability-related activities especially those supported by the SILC and CLI. * Surveys measuring service providers and policymakers knowledge of IL will be conducted at relevant activities.
<p>Accessible Recreational Opportunities</p>	<p>For Objective 4.5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Participants will report increased awareness and knowledge about the ADA Accessibility Guidelines. * At least 10% of training participants will join or increase their involvement in the DNP Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility.

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

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

The DSU (CNMI OVR) considers the financial need of consumers for the purpose of determining the extent of their participation in the costs of independent living services. If comparable services and benefits are available, they must be utilized to meet in whole or in part the cost of independent living services. (Source: CNMI OVR Program Services Policy and Procedures Manual, January 2014, p. 118).