

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for North Carolina for 2017-2019

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: North Carolina

Agency: North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0037-01](#) 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.

NC Division 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.

North Caroling 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 Claudia Horn, Senior Director for Employment Services, DVRS, DSB, DSDHH and Claudia Horn, Senior Director for Employment Services, DVRS, DSB, DSDHH.

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 Keith Greenarch

Title Vice Chair, North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council (acting Chair)

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/28/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Claudia Horn

Title Senior Director for Employment Services, DVRS, DSB, DSDHH

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/29/2016

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

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

Name Claudia Horn

Title Senior Director for Employment Services, DVRS, DSB, DSDHH

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/29/2016

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

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Goals and Mission

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

Goal Name:Mission

Goal Description:

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

Goal Name:The 8 CILs of NC provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities.

Goal Description:

The staff of the eight Centers of Independent Living in North Carolina receives annual support for training, network building and attendance of quarterly North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council meetings.

Goal Name:Youth with disabilities in NC have increased leadership and empowerment

Goal Description:

Youth with disabilities in North Carolina are prepared for leadership roles by annually offering a Youth Leadership Forum opportunity, rural outreach events provided by the Centers for Independent Living and financial support to attend Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living Youth Conference.

Goal Name:Independent Living Services in North Carolina are improved.

Goal Description:

The SILC provides Part B funds to support provision of the five core services offered by the eight Centers for Independent Living in North Carolina. The Part B center in Greenville and the Part C center in Wilmington received additional funding.

Goal Name: People with disabilities in NC live in the community of their choice

Goal Description:

Part B funds are provided to people with disabilities to divert or transition from institutions to community based living.

Goal Name: Using I&E Funds the NCSILC office operates efficiently and effectively

Goal Description:

In accordance with written policies under the Department of Health and Human Services and the Federal Rehabilitation Act, North Carolina Statewide Independent Living Council implements recruitment and membership procedures, coordinates quarterly meetings, provides orientation, mentoring and training for SILC members, coordinates an Independent Living Summit in appropriate years.

Goal Name: NCVRIL and DSB provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities

Goal Description:

Division of Services for the Blind and Department Vocational Rehabilitation Services provide home modifications, personal assistance, physical restoration, transition services, and assistive technology training for people with disabilities, and outreach efforts to Veterans with disabilities.

Goal Name:

Goal Description:

Goal Name:

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Goal Description:

1.2 Objectives

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

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
<p>The 8 CILs of NC provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities.</p>	<p>Objective 1.1 Centers for Independent Living staff members are well trained.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, a minimum of 8 Centers for Independent Living staff members receive training by attending conferences such as, but not limited to, National Council on Independent Living (NCIL), Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL), Southeastern Center Directors Association (SECDA), National ADA Symposium, Disability Rights NC, GREAT Conference, etc.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living conduct 2 retreats to focus on network building, and development and dissemination of a uniform service delivery manual.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living meet in person at the Statewide Independent Living Council quarterly meetings to participate in the processes of the Statewide Independent Living Council to ensure collaboration and cooperation between the Centers for Independent Living and the Statewide Independent Living Council.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>? Upon request, the Centers for Independent Living provide information on ?How to start a Center for Independent Living? to a Grassroots Advocacy Organization in an unserved area of NC.</p>		
<p>Youth with disabilities in NC have increased leadership and empowerment</p>	<p>Objective 2.1 Youth with disabilities are prepared for leadership roles.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, funds are made available to a Grassroots Advocacy Organization (GAO) with a focus on youth, cross disabilities and Independent Living philosophy, to coordinate and hold a Youth Leadership Forum for 20 youth with disabilities. If no successful applicant is identified, the funds will be distributed equally to the Centers for Independent Living of North Carolina for other youth activities under this goal.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living provide training on Independent Living, including transitions to post-secondary education and/or employment, for a minimum of 48 youth with disabilities.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living provide a minimum of 8 outreach events to youth with disabilities in rural areas.</p> <p>? Annually, the Statewide Independent Living Council assists 2 youth with disabilities to attend the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL) conference which focuses on rural independent living; Statewide Independent Living Council funding for each youth supplements other funding resources, such as the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disability Jean Wolff-Rossi Fund for Participant Involvement.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Independent Living Services in North Carolina are improved.</p>	<p>Objective 3.1 Current service areas do not become unserved or underserved to a greater degree, and previously unserved consumers in North Carolina are served. At a minimum, the current level of funding for Centers for</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>Independent Living is maintained, and funding increases are the optimum outcome.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living facilitate a minimum of 8 meetings to educate legislators about Centers for Independent Living, and to advocate for state funding of the Centers for Independent Living of North Carolina.</p> <p>? Annually, the Statewide Independent Living Council maintains Title VII Part B funding levels for Part B and Part C Centers.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living provide a minimum of 1,000 Information and Referrals. In addition, the Centers for Independent Living of North Carolina annually provide a minimum of 24 services each of advocacy, peer support and independent living skills.</p> <p>? Annually, the Statewide Independent Living Council coordinates Mental Health training for Centers for Independent Living staff and Statewide Independent Living Council members with key partners from mental health organizations.</p>		
<p>Independent Living Services in North Carolina are improved.</p>	<p>Objective 3.2 People with disabilities have greater access to transportation in their communities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? In year 1, the Statewide Independent Living Council forms a committee of not fewer than five members to meet at least once with a representative of disability compliance with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to discuss opportunities for Statewide Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living and North Carolina Department of Transportation to advocate for greater access for people with disabilities.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>? In years 2 and 3, the Statewide Independent Living Council uses findings from year 1, in collaboration with North Carolina Department of Transportation, to implement at least one annual activity to further transportation access for people with disabilities. Activities may include at least one training in accessible transportation to local transit boards.</p> <p>? Annually the Statewide Independent Living Council, in collaboration with North Carolina Department of Transportation, coordinates training on accessible transportation for Centers for Independent Living staff and Statewide Independent Living Council members.</p>		
<p>People with disabilities in NC live in the community of their choice</p>	<p>Objective 4.1 Individuals with disabilities are not forced to live in institutions or shelters and have the opportunity for community-based living.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living assist a minimum of 16 transitions or diversions from institutions with potential partners including but not limited to, Money Follows the Person, NC Housing Finance Agency, Local Council on Governments, Housing Authorities and Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Rehabilitation Program, etc.</p> <p>? Annually, the Centers for Independent Living refer a minimum of 16 people with disabilities for affordable and/or accessible housing through the Key Program Targeted Housing.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Using I&E Funds the NCSILC office operates efficiently and effectively</p>	<p>Objective 5.1 The NC SILC nonprofit office coordinates SILC-related activities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? The NC SILC holds quarterly meetings</p> <p>? The NC SILC disseminates information</p> <p>? The NC SILC coordinates and implements a bi-annual Independent Living Summit</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>? For NC SILC succession planning, the membership committee identifies and recommends on a continuous basis at least three potential SILC nominees who meet the qualifications mandated in the Rehabilitation Act.</p> <p>? The NC SILC membership committee provides orientation and mentorship for all new members</p>		
<p>NCVRIL and DSB provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities</p>	<p>Objective 6.1 DSB and DVRS provide services and supports to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, DVRS provides home modifications to a minimum of 500 consumers.</p> <p>? Annually, DVRS provides personal assistance services to a minimum of 200 consumers</p> <p>? Annually, DVRS provides physical restoration services to a minimum of 100 consumers.</p> <p>? Annually, DVRS provides community-based transition supports to a minimum of 30 consumers.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>NCVRIL and DSB provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities</p>	<p>Objective 6.2 DSB and DVRS provide assistive technology supports to enable people with disabilities to increase independence at home and in the community.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <p>? Annually, DSB provides a minimum of 2 technology group trainings to consumers.</p> <p>? Annually, DSB and DVRS provide assistive technology training to a minimum of 100 participants in the community.</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>NCVRIL and DSB provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities</p>	<p>Objective 6.3: DSB and DVRS enable Veterans with disabilities to receive seamless supports and services to live independently.</p> <p>? Annually, DSB and DVRS participate in 5 events to increase communication and</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	collaboration with the Veterans Administration and other programs serving Veterans.		
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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 eastern part of NC continues to be underserved and unserved by CILs. Goal 3 of this SPIL will provide funding for the existing Part B CIL in Greenville to serve the eastern counties of Beaufort, Pitt and Wilson. The Part B and C CILs will target outreach to people with disabilities from diverse cultures, ethnic backgrounds, and rural areas. The Eastern CILs will provide outreach to people who are underserved within existing service areas as identified in each Part C CILs Strategic Plan, which identifies efforts to reach populations of diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds and in rural areas. Target populations include, but are not limited to, Native Americans, Latinos residing in urban and rural areas, young people with disabilities, people residing in institutional settings, military veterans, and the mental health community. According to a 2003 study by the NC Institute of Health, NC has the fastest growing Latino population in the country. In 1990 they comprised 1.04% of the population. In 2011 individuals of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 8.6% of the state's population according to the US Census bureau.

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

Western NC is home to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The Lumbee Indians are located in the eastern part of NC. Many Veterans returning home from war efforts with injuries and disabilities, identified as an unserved/underserved population in NC, are remaining close to the Fort Bragg army base to receive medical care. People residing in institutional settings, the mental health community, and young people with disabilities are located throughout NC in underserved and unserved areas of the state. The Latino population is widespread throughout both rural and urban areas.

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

The CILs will maintain contact with Tribal Councils (when located within their service area), organizations and nonprofits that primarily serve people who are from the Latino culture, people who reside in rural communities, and will work with schools, community colleges and universities to identify youth with disabilities.

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		486000		20000
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			1938445	
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)	210000			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				
NCDVR		10890000	35000	
DSB		200000		
Total	210000	11576000	1973445	20000

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		486000		20000
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			1938445	
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)	192850			
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				
NCDVR		10925000		
DSB		200000		
Total	192850	11611000	1938445	20000

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		486000		20000
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			1938445	
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)	192850			

Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds				
Non-Federal funds - Other				
NCDVR		10925000		
NCDSB		200000		
Total	192850	11611000	1938445	20000

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.

Provide \$214,168 annually in Part B funds to the Network of Centers for staff training, network building, implementation of uniform practices, attend quarterly SILC meetings, and provide information upon request to a Grassroots Advocacy Organization in an unserved area of NC on "How to start a Center for Independent Living". (Objective 1.1) To annually provide a minimum of 8 outreach events to youth with disabilities in rural areas, annually providing training on Independent Living, including transitions to post-secondary education and/or employment, for a minimum of 48 youths with disabilities. (Objective 2.1) To annually facilitate a minimum of 8 meetings to educate legislators about Centers for Independent Living and advocate for state funding of these centers and carry out the five core services. (Objective 3.1) This amount will be distributed each year through separate yearly contracts, each contract distributing \$26,771.00 and administered through DVR our DSE with the existing CILs in Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Sylva and Winston-Salem.

Provide \$20,000 in Part B funds to prepare youth for leadership roles. This amount will be offered annually to a Grassroots Advocacy Organization (GAO) with a focus on youth, cross disabilities and Independent Living philosophy to coordinate and hold a Youth Leadership Forum for 20 youth. (Objective 2.1)

Provide \$254,635 of Part B funds to the CIL in Greenville - Disability

Advocates & Resource Center for operating expenses necessary for the provision of the IL core services (Objective 3.1) and activities mentioned above in paragraph 1. This amount will be provided each year through contracts administered through the DVR our DSE.

Provide \$70,739 of Part B funds to the CIL in Wilmington - disAbility Resource Center for operating expenses necessary for the provision of the IL core services (Objective 3.1) and activities mentioned above in paragraph 1. This amount will be provided each year through contracts administered through the DVR our DSE. This amount includes funds specifically to bring this center up to the level of funding of the other Part C centers.

Provide \$210,000 in Innovation and Expansion funds in year one, \$192,850 in years two and three to maintain the NCSILC nonprofit office, SPIL related activities (Objective 5.1). This amount will be provided each year through contracts administered by DVR.

The majority of IL Network/CIL services are supported by Part C funding. Part C funding will be used to implement the required core services in 42 counties in North Carolina and to produce materials and educational experiences for citizens in many of the other counties.

The North Carolina General assembly funds dedicated to providing IL services will be distributed with 10,890,000 to DVR, 200,000 to DSB, and 35,000 to the CILs to provide Independent Living through the five core services in the first year.

Note: Part B grant award amounts for the Fiscal Years governed by this plan were unavailable at the time of this SPIL writing. Therefore, all specific number values that appear in the SPIL are based on estimated Fiscal Year 2016 funding amounts and are subject to change.

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.

The North Carolina General assembly funds dedicated to providing IL services will be distributed with 10,890,000 to DVR, 200,000 to DSB, and 35,000 to the CILs to provide Independent Living through the five core services, in year one. The North Carolina General assembly funds dedicated to providing IL services will be distributed 10,925,000 to DVR, 200,000 to DSB in year 2 and 3. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides the required 10% match for the Title VII, Ch. 1, Part B funds from a State appropriation. Innovation & Expansion funds are utilized to fund the NC SILC nonprofit office and SILC meetings, member reimbursements, and related activities; these funds are coordinated with the State Rehabilitation Council.

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.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides administrative support services related to administering contracts with the Centers to carry out the State Plan.

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

The financial plan assumes the same level of funding as the year preceding this plan.

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 lay a foundation for the accomplishment in NC of the purposes of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended "to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal

access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society." The SPIL provides, expands and improves the provision of independent living services, assists in the development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living and encourages improved working relationships among State Independent Living Rehabilitation Programs, CILs, and NCSILC.

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 three-year State Plan goals, objectives and activities were developed by a writing group that included staff members of Centers for Independent Living, SILC members, and staff from Vocational Rehabilitation ILRP. Two SILC members, with present and former experience as Center staff, conducted public information gathering sessions across the State starting in 2014 and concluding by September, 2015. In addition, public information was sought using the same survey distributed by Centers and posted on the NCSILC website. All of the direct services described in this plan are consistent with those outlined in Title VII under standards and assurances for CILs.

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.

For this three-year State Plan, each Ex-Officio on the NCSILC was invited to propose a collaboration to be included in the plan. The following are the proposed collaborations with the SILC and the Centers:

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Rehabilitation Program and Division of Services for the Blind have proposed the collaborations in the activities in Goal 6 of the State Plan.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities proposes collaborations with the Centers in the three main goal areas of their five-year State Plan, which are asset development, community living, and advocacy development. The committee structure for the Council on Developmental Disabilities has been reorganized around these three main goals, and efforts will focus on achieving outcomes in these three areas. All three of these broad areas will provide opportunities

to partner with the Centers, and these partnerships will form the basis of reporting to the quarterly SILC meetings.

Disability Rights NC, in its capacity as the state's Protection & Advocacy System, will provide legal backup to the SILC and Centers related to Transitions to Community Living, Voting, and other areas involving interpretations regarding the legal protections of the ADA and other Federal and State laws. Disability Rights NC will also provide legally-based advocacy training to the SILC and Centers on agreed upon challenges facing the disability community, such as Medicaid buy-in, EPSDT, Medicaid waivers, etc. These training opportunities will be provided during the Member Enrichment time slots at the quarterly SILC meetings.

Client Assistance Program will provide training on CAP services for both Center staff and Center consumers. Client Assistance Program will also share systems advocacy issues with the Centers and the SILC as identified by CAP. These collaborations will be the basis of reporting at the quarterly SILC meetings.

Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will provide training about DSDHH services and updated information about hearing loss for the CIL staff and SILC members. Also DSDHH staff will learn more about CIL services from collaborative training with a CIL in the same or nearby region. In addition, DSDHH will engage in discussions with the CILs to identify potential partnerships or to strengthen partnerships to benefit individuals with hearing loss.

NCSILC maintains representation on the State Rehabilitation Council, and various other committees such as the NC Assistive Technology Program Advisory Council.

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.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Rehabilitation Program and the Division of Services for the Blind are each represented on the SILC, which promotes coordination of services to avoid unnecessary duplication of services. For this plan, the proposed activities will also coordinate services with various entities under goals in the following areas.

The eight Centers for Independent Living will be supported with funds to assist with travel expenses in order to attend the four quarterly meetings of the SILC, which will promote coordination of services with the entities represented on the SILC as well as entities that will participate in various goal activities. Also, Center staff will be supported with funds to attend trainings, workshops and conferences provided by local and state entities in order to coordinate participation and provision of services with these entities.

The NC Statewide Independent Living Council will coordinate with the NC Council on Developmental Disabilities to identify and assist youth with disabilities to participate in the

annual youth conference and training provided by the Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living.

In the area of mental health, the Statewide Independent Living Council will coordinate with key partners from mental health organizations in order to provide training for SILC members and Center staff members who attend the SILC quarterly meetings.

In the area of transportation, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living will coordinate with the NC Department of Transportation and local transit boards to increase access to transportation for people with disabilities.

In the area of transition to community-based living, the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living will coordinate with partners such as Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project, NC Housing Finance Agency, local Council on Governments, Housing Authorities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Rehabilitation Program.

In the area of housing, the Centers for Independent Living coordinate with the Key Program Targeted Housing and local Housing Authorities in order to obtain affordable and/or accessible housing.

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.

Since the Division of Services for the Blind is represented on the Statewide Independent Living Council, new methods and approaches for the provision of independent living services to older individuals who are blind are communicated to other SILC partners, including the Centers for Independent Living and the Vocational Rehabilitation Independent Living Rehabilitation Program.

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

2.1 Scope and Extent

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

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

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	Yes	No	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	Yes	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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	No	No
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	No	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	No	No	No
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	Yes	No	Yes
Individual and group social and recreational services	Yes	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	Yes	Yes	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities	Yes	No	Yes

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

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

To a large extent, the goals in mandated annual work plans completed by the Centers will enable the accomplishment of SPIL goals. Goals specified for certain centers will focus upon youth services, transition services, and all Centers will focus on enhancement of quality IL services. Because the great majority of services outlined in this plan are vital to the operations of its major program contributors, there is not a need to set sweeping additional priorities, standards, indicators, or assurances to carry out the essential components of the plan.

The DVR ILRP assists eligible individuals with a significant disability and has a priority of serving those who are currently living in an institution but are able, with appropriate supports, to live independently in the community; those who are living in the community but at risk of being institutionalized; those who are integrated into the community but need continued support; and those who are employed and need services to maintain employment. Additionally, DVRS has one full time staff who works as a Latino Outreach Specialist. In that role, he helps identify Latinos with disabilities in all 100 counties who could benefit from employment and independent living services, and provides consultation to professionals within state government regarding effective strategies for communicating, interacting and serving this community.

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.

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.

The DVRIL has performance-based contracts with one Part B CIL and seven Part C CILs to disperse Part B funds to train staff, transition consumers from institutional settings into the community and for general operations to provide the IL core services as specified in the SPIL.

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

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services will provide contracts to the existing Part C CILs and one Part B CIL using Part B funds. The State assures both NC Part B and Part C CILs follow the standards and assurances for Centers for Independent Living in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. The determination of an individual's eligibility for services from a CIL is delegated to the Center.

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.

NC has 7 Part C funded CILs and 1 Part B funded CIL that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act. The Part C CILs receive Part B funds to provide Independent Living Services through contracts with DVR. A Part B CIL receives only Part B funds. NC does not provide state funds to CILs. NC has 39 Counties served by Part C CILs across the state and 3 Counties served by a Part B CIL.

The North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center defines rural as less than 200 people per square mile and urban as greater than 200 people per square mile. This standard was applied to identify the counties in each CIL service area as either an urban or a rural county in the descriptions below. The population figures were gathered from the 2012 US Census Bureau Population Data.

Disability Partners in Sylva (SPIL signatory ED. Barbara Davis)

serves the 7 rural counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon, and Swain. The total population of the 7 counties is 193,676, approximately 2% of the state population. The Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians on the Qualla Boundary is located in this service area. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

Disability Partners in Asheville (SPIL signatory ED. Barbara Davis) serves the 7 counties of Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford, and Transylvania. The population of the service area is 538,939, or about 5% of the state population. Buncombe and Henderson Counties are identified as Urban and Madison, McDowell, Polk, Rutherford and Transylvania are rural. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

Disability Rights & Resources in Charlotte (SPIL signatory ED. Julia Sain) serves the 4 counties of Cabarrus Gaston, Mecklenburg, and Union, with a population of 1,570,098, or about 16% of the state population. All counties in the service area are considered urban. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

The Adaptables in Winston-Salem (SPIL signatory ED. Mark Steele) serves the 6 counties of Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin, with a population of 721,258, or about 7.7% of the state population. Forsythe County is identified as an urban county, and Davidson, Davie, Stokes, Surry and Yadkin are identified as rural counties. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

The Joy A. Shabazz CIL in Greensboro (SPIL signatory ED. Aaron Shabazz) serves the 5 counties of Alamance, Caswell, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham, with a total population of 913,202, or about 9.5% of the state's population. Guilford County is identified as urban and Alamance, Caswell, Randolph and Rockingham are identified as rural counties. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

Alliance of Disability Advocates in Raleigh (SPIL signatory ED. Dave Wickstrom) serves the 5 counties of Durham, Franklin, Johnston, Orange and Wake, with a total population of 1,608,146, or 16.3% of the state population. Durham, Orange & Wake, are identified as urban and Franklin & Johnston are identified as rural counties. This CIL receives Part B and C funds.

disAbility Resource Center in Wilmington (SPIL signatory ED. Gloria Garton) serves Columbus, Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Onslow Counties with a population of 616,587, or approximately 5% of the state population. New Hanover County is identified as urban while Brunswick, Columbus, Pender and Onslow Counties are identified as rural. This CIL receives Part B and C funds, but is currently funded at a low level.

Disability Advocates & Resource Center in Greenville (SPIL signatory ED. Helen Pase) the Part B CIL, serves Beaufort, Pitt and Wilson Counties, with a population of 301,819, or slightly more than 3% of the state population. Pitt is identified as an urban county while Beaufort and Wilson are identified as rural counties. Pitt, Beaufort and Wilson Counties are identified as underserved. This CIL receives only Part B funds, and is currently funded at a low level.

As with other states, the NC Centers have adopted a Funding Formula that details an itemized budget of the minimum amount of funding required to operate a CIL with three or fewer counties. The minimum amount of funding was determined to be \$325,000 at this time (Adequate Level of Funding for 1-3 counties) based upon known operating costs of number of staff and their salaries and benefits, along with other costs of operation such as rent, supplies, mileage, insurance, and so forth. To this minimum base of \$325,000, and consistent with other states that are implementing this formula, the amount of \$17,000 is added for each additional county beyond the base of three counties; the additional costs of adding each additional county have been determined to be an additional \$34,000 based on hiring additional staff and the associated costs. However, to provide a more fair distribution of funds overall for the total current counties that each CIL is serving, a formula was developed by other states and is being implemented to distribute half of this amount per counties over 3 based on total number of counties served over three counties, and half on the disability population in the total counties served, with \$17,000 in additional funding for each 10,000 people with disabilities in the population base of the CIL's service area. Obviously, a higher population of people with disabilities will require additional funds to hire adequate staff to serve the population.

Thus, this minimum funding formula for NC will require a base level of \$325,000 for three or fewer counties, plus an additional \$17,000 for each additional county beyond three counties, plus an additional amount based on the total disability population in the total counties served by each CIL with an additional \$17,000 for each 10,000 people with disabilities in the population of the CIL's service area.

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).

Priority 1:

The Rehabilitation Act specifies the first funding priority as to fund existing Part C CILs at the prior year's level, and include a cost of living adjustment, if possible. Following this priority, the State Plan has outlined what underserved and unserved areas would be a priority for the creation of a new CIL if Part C funds become available.

In the event that a federal Part C funded CIL must relinquish its grant and close its CIL, it is North Carolina's intent to make it a first priority for ACL to conduct a grant competition for a new CIL in the same service area that was served by the CIL that closed. If the closed CIL received any federal Part B funds, the new CIL may contract for those funds through the contract process as established by NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services and consistent with the NC State Plan for Independent Living. If the ACL grant competition does not identify a successful candidate to start a new CIL in the same service area that was previously served by the CIL that closed, the federal Part C funds designated for that service area will be divided among the other existing Part C funded CILs based upon their current percentage of federal Part C funds. Any federal Part B funds that were designated for the former CIL will be divided equally among the remaining eligible CILs as determined through the contracting process established by NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services and consistent with the NC State Plan for Independent Living.

The Counties of Wilson, Pitt and Beaufort in Eastern NC are underserved by a Center for Independent Living (CIL); the Part B Center that currently serves these three counties in Eastern NC has limited funding and limited staff, so the available resources do not provide for the level of demand for services in this underserved area. Currently, NC has 58 counties that are unserved by a CIL; these counties are Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Ashe, Avery, Bertie, Bladen, Burke, Caldwell, Camden, Carteret, Catawba, Chatham, Chowan, Cleveland, Craven, Cumberland, Currituck, Dare, Duplin, Edgecombe, Gates, Granville, Green, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Lincoln, Martin, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Richmond, Robeson, Rowan, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, Watauga, Wayne, Wilkes, and Yancey.

The order of priority for serving the unserved and/or underserved areas of the state by any existing Part C CIL is as follows:

Priority 2:

The second priority, if additional on-going Part C funding becomes available, will be to fund a competitive application from the Part B Center currently serving the 3 underserved counties of

Wilson, Pitt and Beaufort, and any combination of one or more of the 6 unserved counties of Martin, Washington, Terrell, Dare, Hyde and Greene Counties, depending on the level of available funding.

The minimum annual funding level to establish a new Part C center in the unserved and/or underserved areas is \$250,000. This can be a combination of federal funds, and or state funds.

If there is not a qualified fundable applicant in Priority 2, the Part C funds will be distributed to the existing part C centers in proportion to each CIL's share of the total IL Part C funds in the state.

Priority 3:

The third priority will be to establish a Part C CIL in one of the following three areas based on the most qualified fundable applicant:

(a) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Cumberland, Hoke, Harnett and Bladen Counties. The population of the four counties is approximately 459,912 including Ft. Bragg, a major United Army installation. Many Veterans, identified as an unserved/underserved population in NC, returning home from the war with injuries and disabilities are remaining close to the army base to receive medical care.

(b) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Burke, Cleveland, Lincoln, Catawba, Iredell, Rowan, Alexander and Caldwell Counties. These counties in the Western area in the state have a population of approximately 754,917 people.

The Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton area is considered a Metropolitan Statistical Area by the US Census Bureau.

(c) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Nash, Edgecombe, Halifax, North Hampton, Warren, Vance, Granville and Person Counties. These counties boarder the Virginia line and have a population consisting of approximately 369,529 people. Rocky Mount is in Nash and Edgecombe Counties, and makes up a Metropolitan Statistical Area according to the US Census Bureau.

The minimum annual funding level to establish a new Part C CIL in the unserved and/or underserved areas is \$250,000. This can be a combination of federal funds and/or state funds.

If there is not a qualified fundable applicant in Priority 3, the Part C funds will be distributed to the existing part C centers in proportion to each CIL's share of the total IL Part C funds in the state.

Priority 4:

The fourth priority will be to establish a Part C CIL in one the following areas based on the most qualified fundable applicant.

(a) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Robeson, Scotland, Richmond, Anson, Stanly, Montgomery, Moore, Lee and Chatham Counties. These counties have a total population of approximately 489,243 people. The largest population of the Lumbee Indian Tribe, recognized by the state of North Carolina, is located in Robeson County.

(b) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Samson, Wayne, Duplin, Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Pamlico and Carteret Counties. These counties have approximately 456,235 residents and are home to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base.

(c) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Yancey, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany and Wilkes Counties. The population of these counties is approximately 194,016. All seven counties are mountainous, and four of the counties are located in the Appalachian Mountains range.

(d) A qualified fundable applicant who proposes to serve one or more of the following counties, depending on the community-based proposal from the grassroots advocacy organization: Hertford, Bertie, Gates, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck Counties. These counties have a population of approximately 138,760 people. Perquimans County is part of the Elizabeth City Metropolitan Statistical Area. The counties of Gates, Perquimans, Camden and Currituck contain sixty percent of the Great Dismal swamp.

The minimum annual funding level to establish a new Part C Center in the unserved and/or underserved areas is \$250,000. This can be a combination of federal funds and/ or state funds.

If there is not a qualified fundable applicant in Priority 4, the Part C funds will be distributed to the existing part C centers in proportion to each CIL's share of the total IL Part C funds in the state.

At no time will the state of North Carolina pursue any action that will have an adverse impact on the already existing network of Centers for Independent Living. This includes any action involving temporary funding, including one-time federal funding. One-time federal funding is any federal funding that is not ongoing and that is a one-time funding appropriation with no continued funding in subsequent years.

In the event there is one-time Part B federal independent living funding, it will be disbursed to all of the partners based upon the percentage that each partner currently receives of the Regular Part B funds. In terms of the CILs, the total amount of one-time Part B funding designated for CILs will be equally divided among the existing CILs who are eligible for that funding.

In the event that there is one-time Part C federal independent living funding, such as with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, this funding will be disbursed equally among all of the current Part C CILs, unless it will affect Regular Part C funding in the years after the one-time funding goes away. If it will affect the amounts of Regular Part C in subsequent years, the onetime Part C funding is to be disbursed to the current CILs based upon the current percentage of Regular Part C that each CIL receives.

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.

Under Section 704(c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Designated State Entity for NC will be the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The duties of the Designated State Entity, including those described in this plan related to the Designated State Unit, are to provide fiscal agent responsibilities for the Part B funds identified in this plan. As stated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the responsibilities of the Designated State Entity are as follows: (1) Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan; (2) Provide administrative support service for a program under Part B; (3) Keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; (4) Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and (5) Retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this Section. Representing Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services will be Claudia Horn, Senior Director for Employment Services, DVRS, DSB, DSDHH, who will sign the State Plan to show agreement to serve as the Designated State Entity and agreement with the responsibilities enumerated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

In its role as the Designated State Entity, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services will develop and monitor the contracts with the Centers for Independent Living to provide the direct services under the goals in this plan, and receive and process invoices from the Centers for Independent Living in a timely manner. This is consistent with the fiscal agent responsibilities outlined for the Designated State Entity as delineated in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

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.

NC SILC nonprofit office and its activities are funded with I & E and Part B funds. The nonprofit office is staffed by a Director of Operations who works approximately 26 hours per week and a Financial Manager who is employed 10 to 12 hours per week.

Funds are utilized for registrations, travel, meals, lodging and accommodations for staff and SILC members to attend quarterly SILC meetings, conferences, summits, and so forth.

Supplies and materials are purchased for the nonprofit office, quarterly meetings, and other related events.

Monthly office expenses include rent, telecommunications, insurance, equipment rental, and so forth.

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.

NC SILC nonprofit office prepares an annual budget to carry out its duties under the Federal law. The Designated State Entity will provide fiscal agent services to monitor expenditures and provide reimbursements in a timely manner. A Finance Committee of SILC members will monitor, review and evaluate the performance and expenditures under Goal 5 of the State Plan, which addresses activities of the NC SILC nonprofit office.

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

No conditions or requirements are included in the SILC resource plan that would compromise the independence of the NC SILC. In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act as amended by WIOA, the NC SILC is not established as an entity under any State agency, and no State agency

will in any way hinder or interfere with the performance of the SILC duties as specified in Section 705 of the Act. Furthermore, the NC SILC will exercise its authority under WIOA to engage in systems advocacy and to conduct resource development activities.

As the Designated State Entity, DVRS will provide fiscal agent services as outlined in Section 4.1 of this plan, and will not in any way interfere with the programmatic aspects of this plan and the corresponding duties and activities to be accomplished by the SILC nonprofit office, the SILC members, or the CIL staff members.

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

Since the NC SILC successfully transitioned into utilizing its Part B funding based on the current year's grant award, each annual budget is constructed to utilize the approximately 50% of Part B funds from the previous year's budget which must be expended in the second year, and approximately 50% of the Part B funds from the current year's grant award in their first of 2 years of availability. Previously, Part B funds were being accessed only in their second and final year, and complications with amending contracts and providing reimbursements in a timely manner resulted in Part B funds reverting back to the Federal level in spite of clearly identified needs to be addressed by these Part B funds.

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act as amended under WIOA, DVRS will provide a portion of I & E funds in the resource plan to support the activities of the State Plan for Independent Living. The specific details of the resource plan for the 3 years of this plan are included in the 3 financial plan tables in Section 1.3A.

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 NC SILC was established by Executive Order No. 123, signed July 25, 2012, as an entity independent of any other agency or political subdivision of North Carolina. NCSILC obtained its 501 (c)(3) status Jan. 23, 2009. The NCSILC operates independently of any state agencies, in compliance with Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act and as required under contracts administered by DVRS. Because NC SILC was established by an Executive Order, it must be recreated every 4 years with the election of a new administration. Therefore, the NC SILC will investigate the process of being codified in State law as with other similar councils mandated by Federal law.

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.

NCSILC has a Membership Committee to review applications from interested individuals, and to determine eligibility as described in the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. Applicants for NCSILC membership are asked to submit an application, a letter of interest, and a resume, that describes their knowledge, experiences and participation in activities, committees, and community organizations that promote the independent living philosophy. Qualified applicants are voted on by the full NCSILC and the applications are forwarded to the Governor's office for consideration. Individuals may also apply directly to the Governor's office. The NCSILC Board is appointed by the Governor of NC. Members of the NCSILC represent a broad range of disabilities and cultural and ethnic backgrounds as well as representatives from across the State. The composition of the NC SILC is twenty voting members, with a majority of members who are consumers and not employed by either a CIL or a State agency, and six Ex-Officio non-voting members; the majority of the twenty six voting and non-voting members are also consumers and not employed by either a CIL or a State Agency.

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.

NCSILC is a 501 (c) 3 not for profit organization. NCSILC is an equal opportunity employer that does not discriminate on the basis of race, culture, national origin, political affiliation, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability. The NCSILC is committed to the employment of competent individuals that can carry out the functions of the State Plan. All NC and federal labor laws are followed.

The NCSILC Operations Manager is supervised by the NCSILC Board Chair. The Operations Manager receives an annual review by the Board Chair. At that review, goals and objectives are set for the following year, with compensation increases tied to the successful completion of the set goals and objectives. The Operations Manager supervises the Financial Manager, and any other necessary staff required to accomplish the duties of the NC SILC; similar annual reviews are conducted by the Operations Manager for all NC SILC staff members.

- 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.

While assisting the NCSILC in carrying out its duties under the State Plan, staff and other personnel employed by any State agency or office of the State will not be assigned duties that will create a conflict of interest. All State employees, while assisting or serving on the NC SILC, will comply with the NC state ethics requirements and will not assume any roles or duties that will create a conflict of interest.

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.

CIL staff members are knowledgeable in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. The requirement for consumer control at all levels for CIL staff members, including decision-making staff members and total staff members, contributes lived experience to the development and provision of IL services as well as the development and support of the Center. This is especially true for the provision of peer mentoring and support, as well as the provision of IL skills training.

Additionally, ILRU training is available for CIL staff members, both on site through seminars and conferences and via webinars and teleconferences on a regular basis. The NC SILC assists with trainings at the quarterly meetings, and Part B funds are provided to assist each Center with expenses to participate in these ILRU training events.

- 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.

CIL staff members are knowledgeable of the process for contracting sign language interpreters, and some of the CIL staff members in NC are fluent in signing. CIL staff members are also knowledgeable of the process for obtaining information in alternate formats, such as audio, Braille and large print formats. CIL staff members are also knowledgeable of assistive technology and various devices to assist with nonverbal communication; the NC Assistive Technology Program is a valuable resource in meeting these needs. CIL staff members are also knowledgeable about resources in their areas to assist with language translation for consumers with limited English proficiency.

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

Formation of an IL Network of NC will enhance efforts to successfully establish a statewide and regular program of staff training that includes uniform best practice ideas. Part B funds are

provided to support the CIL staff members in their efforts toward network building. Staff development is also supported with Part B funds to enable CIL staff members to participate in teleconferences, webinars and conferences provided by such entities as ILRU, NCIL and APRIL. These activities are included under Goal 1 of this plan.

- 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.

NCSILC and the 8 CILs follow all Affirmative Action to employ 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. Compliance with the mandate for consumer control promotes the employment and advancement in employment of people with significant disabilities among the CIL personnel. All State contracts with the NC SILC and the 8 CILs require certifications of affirmative action and equal opportunity.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

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

The NC SILC nonprofit office and the 8 CILs have sound policies and procedures in place for fiscal control and fund accounting. DVRS distributes the Part B funds through State contracts in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act and as described in the State Plan; DVRS fiscal services personnel adhere to all requirements specified by the Office of State Budget and Management. All expenditures and requests for reimbursement are reported on regular performance and expenditure reports submitted to DVRS.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

NC SILC and CILs maintain records that fully disclose and document all information as listed in 34 CFR 364.35 and in accordance with NC General Statute 147-64.7.

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

NC SILC and CILs provide access to all financial records and annual performance reports, and will provide access to any other report the Administration for Community Living determines to be appropriate.

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

NC SILC and CILs provide access to all information for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations and compliance reviews.

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.

NC SILS and CIL programs maintain all consumer service records documenting the individual's eligibility for IL services consistent with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

- 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.

NC SILS and CIL programs provide information about IL services and make referrals to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities. All service providers maintain records and documentation of these information and referral services.

- 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.

NC SILS and CIL programs document an individual's self report of limitations creating barriers to participation in major life activities to determine eligibility for IL services. Documentation of an individual's eligibility is included in a consumer service record.

- 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.

NC SILS and CIL programs do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of disability among individuals seeking 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.

There is no residence exclusion from IL services provided by the NC SILS and CIL programs for anyone present in the state.

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.

NC SILS and CIL programs give all eligible consumers the option of writing an independent living plan or signing a waiver of an independent living plan. Services requested by the consumer continue to be provided if the consumer chooses to sign a waiver for an independent living plan, and the consumer is informed that the decision to write an independent living plan can be a choice at any time in the future.

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.

NC SILS and the CIL programs present all consumers with CAP information in the format requested and explain in detail the services provided under CAP and how to contact CAP.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

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

NC SILS and the CIL programs have policies and procedures in place to meet the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a) to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information.

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>The 8 CILs of NC provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities.</p> <p>Youth with disabilities in NC have increased leadership and empowerment</p> <p>Independent Living Services in North Carolina are improved.</p> <p>People with disabilities in NC live in the community of their choice</p>	<p>For each Goal 1 through 4 in this State Plan, a Goal Committee will be formed of NC SILC voting members who have expressed an interest in the goal, objectives and activities that are assigned to that committee. The SILC voting members will carry out their responsibilities to monitor, review and evaluate the progress of implementing the goal and the status of the activities, measurable indicators, outcomes, expenditures and consumer satisfaction if applicable to that goal. Ex-Officio members of the SILC will have the option to join the goal committees of interest to them. For all goals that involve provision of services to consumers, evaluation of consumer satisfaction will be obtained, such as the provision of IL skills training or the assistance with transitions to community-based living. For each of the committees for goals 1 through 4, the Chair of each Goal Committee will provide a report at each of the SILC quarterly meetings.</p>
<p>Using I&E Funds the NCSILC office operates efficiently and effectively</p>	<p>For Goal 5, which involves the duties and activities of the SILC nonprofit office, the Finance Committee will monitor, review and evaluate the objectives and activities under this goal. The Finance Committee will monitor, review and evaluate the performance and expenditure reports submitted by the NC SILC nonprofit office, and the Chair of the Finance Committee will report on progress under this goal at each SILC quarterly meeting.</p>
<p>NCVRIL and DSB provide quality services as needed by people with disabilities</p>	<p>For Goal 6, DSB and DVRS will monitor, review and evaluate the progress under this goal, and its objectives and activities. These two Ex-Officio members of the NC SILC will report on the progress of implementing this goal, and the status of the activities, measurable indicators, outcomes, expenditures and consumer satisfaction with the services received.</p> <p>The remaining 4 Ex-Officio SILC members have proposed collaborations with the SILC and CILs, which have been reported elsewhere in this plan</p>

under Section 1.5. Each of these four Ex-Officio SILC members will report on progress in implementing their collaborations at each of the SILC quarterly meetings.

The NC SILC nonprofit office will compile all evaluation information to be included in the fiscal year's annual report.

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

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

NC SILC complies with the requirements and regulations of the NC Department of Administration's Division of Purchases and Contracts and the NC Office of Boards and Commissions. NC SILC and CILs meet all nondiscrimination and other requirements under State contracting law and related certifications.