

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

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Nebraska

Agency: Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation

Plan for: 2017-2019

Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant [90IS0039-01](#) 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.

University Center For Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)

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.

NA

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.

NE Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC)

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 Wayne Stuberg, Director of UCEDD.

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 Sarah Swanson

Title NESILC Chair

Signed? Yes

Date signed 05/20/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name Wayne Stuberg

Title Director of UCEDD

Signed? Yes

Date signed 06/07/2016

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 Mike Schafer, Joni Thomas, Jean Wilkerson (100% sign on)

Title Directors of CILs

Signed? Yes

Date signed 05/11/2016

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:Nebraskans with disabilities have opportunities to receive IL services

Goal Description:

People with disabilities in Nebraska will receive the following from the IL programs and services:

- ? Information and referral on Independent Living
- ? Independent Living skills training
- ? Self and systems advocacy
- ? Peer Mentoring
- ? Transition
 - o Nursing Home
 - o Youth Not in School
 - o Diversion of people with disabilities from Nursing Homes
- ? Information on the philosophy of consumer control and self determination
- ? Expanded IL service delivery in unserved and underserved areas of the state

Direct services utilizing Part B dollars:

1. Assistive Technology Partnership ? Services are to provide a statewide approach to serving unserved and underserved areas of the State within focused services (e.g. home modifications and assistive technology). This funding has been modified to allow utilization of Part B funds by CILs to provide Independent Living Services in unserved areas of the state.

2. Part B dollars are utilized to operate a Center for Independent Living that provides the Core Services identified in the Rehab Act in the Panhandle area of the state, an area unserved by any Part C funded Center for Independent Living. In addition, plan will be developed to transition Part B Funds from Assistive Technology Partnership to provide Independent Living Services from Centers for Independent Living in other unserved areas of the state.

3. Part B Funds are also utilized to support NESILC to carry out the mandate stated in Section 705 of The Rehab Act as amended by WIOA of 2014.

4. Part B Funds will be utilized to provide information to individual with disabilities and the appropriate format.

5. Part B Funds will also be used to improve the sustainability and capacity for NESILC and the CILs, this includes the funding for the DSE.

Goal Name: Access to Independent Living

Goal Description:

1. People with all disabilities in Nebraska will have access to Independent Living supports and services necessary for individuals to have the choice to achieve and maintain Independent Living; these include but are not limited to the core services as set forth in the Rehabilitation Act.

Goal Name: Knowledge of Independent Living

Goal Description:

2. People in Nebraska have access to information on Independent Living services, philosophies and the history of the disability movement.

Goal Name: Improve existing IL system

Goal Description:

3. To improve the capacity and build sustainability for the Centers for Independent Living, NESILC and Independent Living services and supports

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
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<p>Access to Independent Living</p>	<p>a. NESILC & CILs will meet at least quarterly to discuss options to obtain additional funding (state, federal and any other) to reach unserved & underserved populations in Nebraska</p> <p>i. Representatives of NESILC & CILs will meet to develop strategy/plan to obtain additional funding to expand the IL network, also explore opportunities for new funding outside of Part B dollars. FY 16-17</p> <p>ii. NESILC & CILs will implement the plan FY 17-19</p> <p>iii. NESILC & CILs will assess progress & materials developed as well as results FY 16-19</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Access to Independent Living</p>	<p>b. NESILC and CILs will identify and develop a strategy to address the i. A uniform Needs Assessment to identify the gaps and barriers to the provision of IL services will be created and disseminated one time during life of SPIL across the state</p> <p>ii. The IL Needs Assessment will be promoted at the IL Conference or community forums held at CILs other partner agencies such as VR, NCBVI</p> <p>iii. Utilize Part B \$ to expand IL services to unserved/underserved populations these include but are not limited to the core services as set forth in the Rehabilitation Act</p> <p>The CILs and NESILC will develop a plan to redistribute funds if any portion of y IL Network receiving Part B dollars fails to comply with expectations.</p> <p>gaps and barriers to the provision of IL services</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>
<p>Access to Independent Living</p>	<p>c. NESILC and CILs will be active participants in activities/events/discussions that may impact Independent Living</p> <p>i. Initiate or Identify Legislative, Rules, Regulation, administrative meetings/hearing or forums that may impact Independent Living.</p> <p>ii. Disseminate information and develop testimony or provide public comment for relevant meetings or</p>	<p>10/01/2016</p>	<p>09/30/2019</p>

	<p>hearings that will impact IL to include but not limited to email, social media, newsletters and web pages.</p> <p>iii. The SILC will have 5-10 minute reports from all non-voting members at each quarterly meeting regarding activities over past 3 months. Each CIL will make presentation to NESILC annually on function and services</p>		
Knowledge of Independent Living	<p>a. NESILC and CILs will collaborate to host a statewide independent living conference held in a central location with tracks that focus on the five core services, and any other tracks that we deem appropriate. Conference will be held one time during life of SPIL</p> <p>i. Formulate steering committee of interested organization FY 16-17</p> <p>ii. Determine logistics to include date, location, schedule and marketing FY 17-19</p> <p>iii. Identify sponsors or grants to help support conference expenses FY 16-10</p> <p>iv. Work with CILs to develop process to provide stipends to consumer's/family members to attend the conference FY 16-19</p> <p>v. Establish conference tracks FY 17-19</p> <p>vi. Evaluate conference FY 18-19</p> <p>vii. The NESILC will collaborate with the IL Network and include other interested organizations to establish a leadership training FY 16-19</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Knowledge of Independent Living	<p>b. NESILC will attend disability events by other organizations to disseminate printed material and alternative formats as needed about Independent Living in Nebraska annually.</p> <p>i. NESILC members will attend conferences by other organizations to have exhibitor's booth and possible presentation. This includes but not limited to Statewide Brain Injury Conference, Statewide</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	<p>Behavioral Health Conference and People First of Nebraska.</p> <p>ii. The NESILC will have an Outreach Committee that will work to promote IL services and collaborate with other like-minded agencies</p>		
Improve existing IL system	<p>a. Centers for Independent Living will have the necessary resources to provide staff training and to provide the mandated services as well as new and developing disability needs. CILs can apply for grants to help meet training requirements based on needs outlined in 704 Report.</p> <p>i. CILs will apply for training grants of up to \$4000.00 total for all CILs</p>	10/01/2019	09/30/2019
Improve existing IL system	<p>b. NESILC will participate in activities to strengthen the organization</p> <p>i. NESILC will receive 30% of the Part B Allocation and will change organizational structure to strengthen NESILC.</p> <p>ii. Conduct at least one fundraising activity annually</p> <p>iii. NESILC will allow designated members (in compliance with NESILC bylaws) to attend NCIL annually and one other National conference annually to gain knowledge on Independent Living and receive training. Consideration will be based upon availability of resources</p> <p>iv. To implement Standards and Indicators for SILC?s as developed by ACL. Including but not limited to annual training on Rehab Act and Independent Living.</p> <p>v. The NESILC will develop a succession plan for the Executive Director position of NESILC</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Improve existing IL system	<p>c. The NESILC will collaborate with the CILs to develop and implement advocacy efforts that promote the IL philosophy and results in meaningful and measurable systemic change</p> <p>i. The NESILC will collaborate with the State Unit on Aging to advocate for advancements in Independent Living Services and Supports in</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019

	Nebraska; NESILC will support CILs in their advocacy efforts		
Improve existing IL system	<p>d. The new Designated State Entity (DSE) for NESILC will be the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) The DSE is the agency that acts on behalf of the State for Title VII Part B programs.</p> <p>i. The responsibilities include:</p> <p>a. Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State based on the SPIL;</p> <p>b. Provide administrative support services for a program under part B,</p> <p>c. Keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator (of ACL) finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;</p> <p>d. Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and</p> <p>e. Retain not more than 5% 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).</p>	10/01/2016	09/30/2019
Nebraskans with disabilities have opportunities to receive IL services	<p>Direct services utilizing Part B dollars:</p> <p>1. Assistive Technology Partnership ? Services are to provide a statewide approach to serving unserved and underserved areas of the State within focused services (e.g. home modifications and assistive technology). This funding has been modified to allow utilization of Part B funds by CILs to provide Independent Living Services in unserved areas of the state.</p> <p>2. Part B dollars are utilized to operate a Center for Independent Living that provides the Core Services identified in the Rehab Act in the Panhandle area of the state, an area unserved by any Part C funded Center for Independent Living. In addition, plan will be developed to transition Part B Funds from Assistive Technology Partnership to provide Independent Living Services from Centers for</p>		

	<p>Independent Living in other unserved areas of the state.</p> <p>3. Part B Funds are also utilized to support NESILC to carry out the mandate stated in Section 705 of The Rehab Act as amended by WIOA of 2014.</p> <p>4. Part B Funds will be utilized to provide information to individual with disabilities and the appropriate format.</p> <p>5. Part B Funds will also be used to improve the sustainability and capacity for NESILC and the CILs, this includes the funding for the DSE.</p>		
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1.2 Objectives

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

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

The Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council is targeting all people with disabilities in Nebraska.

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

Due to the very rural nature of the State of Nebraska and because we are a minimum funded state, outreach efforts will be statewide as the western 2/3 of our state continue to be unserved or underserved. This is improving in some areas, but with continued effort it can improve statewide. Currently the North Central, South East, and South West Nebraska are unserved or underserved by Part C CILs. There are 6 Counties in the North Central region that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL ? Cherry, Brown, Rock, Holt, Boyd and Keya Paha. There are 5 Counties in the South East Nebraska that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL ? Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson. Southwest Nebraska is served by a Center that does not receive any Part C funds only funded by Part B Funds. These counties are Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux.

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

Listed below is a current list of activities that are taking place in Nebraska:

? The League of Human Dignity participates in Minority health fairs

? Makes regular visit to three different American Indian reservations.

? Coordinates with local Hispanic , Vietnamese, Eastern European and Middle Eastern organizations.

? The LHD has key information translated into Hispanic, Asian, Middle Eastern, and Eastern European and provides interpreters for those who experience English as a Second Language (ESL) and require an interpreter

We will continue efforts to reach out to the Native Americans, Hispanics and other minority groups with disabilities while looking for opportunities to expand our efforts.

The League of Human Dignity provides Medicaid Waiver Assessments for individuals statewide. They have opened offices throughout the state to aid in this process.

The Assistive Technology Partnership will continue to receive limited Part B dollars to aid in outreach to underserved and unserved communities

Vocational Rehabilitation will continue serving entire state.

If an individual's needs include core services exceeding those offered by the League of Human Dignity Medicaid Waiver Offices or the Assistive Technology Partnership the individual is referred to the Centers for Independent Living that serves the area of the state they live in.

Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska dba Independence Rising has established itinerant office locations in Western Nebraska which has ensured continued access to services in underserved parts of the State. This means staff meets with consumer at whatever location is convenient.

The SILC continues to look for qualified members to round out our membership. The application is posted on our website in both WORD and pdf documents. The website is routinely updated to share information. SILC is scheduled to have displays at various State conferences to include the Annual Brain Injury Conference. The display includes brochures from the member organizations that make up the IL Network.

The IL Network has determined that the minimum funding level for Nebraska is \$250,000.00.

If there is new additional federal Part C Independent Living allocation made available, which is not a general funding or cost of living increase for existing Part C funded centers, Nebraska SPIL priority for the distribution of it would be divided between the Part C centers in a formula of 65% to Independence Rising CIL to help them reach the minimum funding to the \$250,000 amount determined to be adequate level of funding based upon cost of staff, salaries and benefits, along with other costs of operation such as rent, supplies, mileage, insurance, etc. The remaining 35% would be allocated to the League of Human Dignity. Once Independence Rising

Part C funding reaches \$250,000 additional part C Funding beyond the 65/35 split, would be distributed on a 50/50 level between Independence Rising and The League of Human Dignity.

Cost of living or additional appropriations for existing Part C centers would be distributed in the formula of 84.5 to The League of Human Dignity and 15.5 to Independence Rising.

The SILC would receive 30% of any increase in Part B funding.

The UCEDD functioning as the DSE will receive 5% of increase in Part B funding.

The remaining increase in Part B Independent Living Funding should be allocated at 60% to serve the 11 unserved counties in Nebraska. CILs and NESILC will develop a competitive funding process. The remaining 40% would be set aside for the CIL serving the Panhandle Area of Nebraska and be used to help that center reach the \$250,000 minimum funding to the amount determined to be adequate level of funding based upon cost of staff, salaries and benefits, along with other costs of operation such as rent, supplies, mileage, insurance, etc.

If for any reason a CIL closes the NESILC and remaining CILs will redistribute funds as needed. NESILC and the CILs will determine process for fund redistribution.

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	95475	101594	93012	15269
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	

Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	10686	9161	9161	1527
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	106161	110755	941934	16796

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	95475	37481	93012	79321
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	10686	3481	9161	7206
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	106161	40962	941934	86527

Year 3 - 2019 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
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Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	95475		93012	116863
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			839761	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds	10686		9161	10688
Non-Federal funds - Other				
Total	106161	0	941934	127551

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.

\$106161.80 of Part B and State match money will be used annually by NESILC including \$5412.00 for CIL Training Grant. During year one of SPIL \$110754.90 of Part B and State Match will be used by ATP. This amount will decrease to \$40962.56 in year 2 and \$0 in year 3, \$102172.50 of Part B and state Match funds will be used for CIL serving panhandle region annually. \$16795.22 of Part B and State Match will fund the DSE annually. \$5412.35 will be split by existing CILs to aid in meeting training needs identified in 704 Report, In Year 2 of SPIL \$66877.80 will be used to provide core IL Services in one of the unserved areas and \$2914.20 will be used in providing alternate formats for upcoming IL Conference. In Year 3 \$9714.00 will be used to provide reasonable accommodations for IL conference and \$101040.62 will provide IL Core services to unserved areas of the state. \$839,761.00 of Part C funds go to to 2 existing Part C Centers.

The Nebraska IL Partners will continue to meet at regular intervals to examine methods of outreach, methods for identifying service gaps or service expansion needs as well as ways to increase funding for Independent Living in Nebraska. The IL Partners in Nebraska include but are not limited to all Federally funded Centers for Independent Living, NESILC and other organizations involved with Independent Living for people with disabilities..

Through joint meetings between SILC and CILs it was determined that all Part B Funds will be used for Independent Living services. This includes funding for CIL in rural Nebraska, administration and operation of SILC, funding of Other SPIL activities. However, the Part B

funds will be redistributed from Assistive Technology to providing Independent Living Service as defined in the Rehab Act by Centers for Independent Living through the Centers for Independent Living. NESILC and CILs will begin developing process to redistribute Part B funds to unserved & underserved areas

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.

Independent Living Services in Underserved/unserved areas of the state are covered primarily by Part B funding.

The LHD and IR receive their primary funding through Part C funding to provide core services. But, they also receive state, county & city funds that are provided for additional services beyond core services in specific areas they serve. Please see Table 2.1a for additional services. Plus services are provided by Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) however this funding will decrease during SPIL and Part B funds & State Mtch will go towards providing core services.

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.

NA

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

NA

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 objectives in the Nebraska SPIL for years Fiscal Years 2017 through 2019 are consistent with and further the purpose of Chapter 1 - Title VII of the Act, as stated in section 701 and 34 CFR 364.2 in the following ways:

? Maximize existing resources and identify opportunities for expansion of services resulting in a comprehensive statewide independent living service delivery system. This ensures individuals with the most significant disabilities, regardless of minority status or geographic location have equal access to necessary services.

? Eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort by State Independent Living Service partners. This maximizes existing resources which will ensure not only sustaining the existing services but to expand upon them.

? Identify areas where through collaboration and taking advantage of each other's limited resources will enable the State Independent Living Service partners to achieve common goals.

? Better ensure a more comprehensive assessment of consumer issues, concerns, and service needs occur than could be accomplished by any one partner alone.

? The SPIL furthers the provision of information by collaboration among the IL network on training, the accuracy of information, and determining ways to address the need for services in unserved and underserved areas of the state

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.

Consideration of CIL priorities under section 725(c)(4) of the Act was ensured by the process established for the development of the SPIL. All CILs participated in the monthly meetings. with NESILC development and review of the initial drafts, the IL Network was responsible for the Outreach focus that evolved The plan is based solidly on that input. CILs assisted with and participated in the public meetings on the SPIL Various State agencies such as ATP, VR, NCBVI and NCDHH were included to develop SPIL objectives.

The IL Network meets in person at least once a year, and maintains regular communication via telephone & internet at least quarterly

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.

? Facilitate the expansion of the IL Network by including all IL Partners in all communication regarding IL in Nebraska. Disseminating information about IL to disability organizations and all stakeholder in the state.

? Meet with representatives of the IL Network at least once every quarter per year

? Include CIL representatives on SILC committees

? Consult with IL Network on potential joint position statements on IL issues in Nebraska

? Routine sharing of information with the IL Network, including the SRC

? NESILC will collaborate and coordinate with the CILs to avoid any duplication of services while promoting consumer choice

? NESILC will maintain a representative to the SRC and collaborate on activities as appropriate

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.

? Representation of the DSE on the SILC.

? Representation of the SILC on the State Rehabilitation Council.

? Representation from state disability agencies plus reports of activities at quarterly NESILC meetings plus annual presentations about the services they provide.

? Either the NESILC Executive Director, NESILC staff member and/or a NESILC Board member will attend and participate in the Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD) with other statewide disability organizations, including the Brain Injury Association, Mental Health Association, to promote community living.

? NESILC & CILS will monitor & share information on changes to Medicaid and other programs/services related to Independent Living.

? Continue to monitor Access Nebraska or any other project developed in Nebraska to ensure IL remains a viable option

? Monitoring transition Programs for Home and Community Based Services to ensure that IL remains viable

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.

NA

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

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	Yes	Yes
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	Yes	Yes
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	No	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	No	Yes
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	Yes	No	No
Physical rehabilitation	Yes	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	Yes	No	No
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	Yes	No	No
Individual and group social and recreational services	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	Yes	Yes

Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	Yes	Yes	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	Yes	Yes

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

? The State Independent Living Service partners will collaborate to redirect the allocation of Part B funds as deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives

? NESILC and the CILs will collaborate to maintain, expand, and sustain a comprehensive network of independent living services to address the needs of Nebraskans experiencing disabilities with emphasis on those currently unserved or underserved.

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 following information is applicable to services provided by Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) is a State agency within the Nebraska Department of Education. No individual will be eligible to receive financial assistance from Part B Funds that exceed 5% of the total amount of Part B Funds that ATP receives in any fiscal year funding period during which assistance is provided.

Policy on individual voluntary participation in the cost of IL services:

? Individuals and their families will be asked to participate in the cost of Part B

services by the Program Coordinator. The cost participation is not

mandatory, but a contribution based on an informed decision involving annual income and available assets or other factors will be encouraged.

individual voluntary participation in the cost of IL services

The Assistive Technology Partnership Funding Coordinator will use the Financial Information on the Service and Device Application form to begin the discussion regarding the potential amount of money the person and his or her family will voluntarily contribute toward the cost of the Part B funded project, where applicable. This will be done as part of the development of the funding package based on the project plan and quotes. This would be a nominal amount or more to help defray cost of the service and to increase the capacity to ensure prompt, equitable access to assistive technology, home modifications, and other IL services for individuals with disabilities and their families through the increased utilization of shared and contributed resources

? The Assistive Technology Partnership will issue a written authorization to the service provider before the purchase of services. In an emergency situation where the Assistive Technology Partnership makes an oral authorization, prompt documentation and written authorization is sent to the service provider. In no case will funds be used for services that have been provided prior to issuance of a service authorization.

Prioritization of services

? If funding is not available to provide for all the goods and services the individual needs to meet their IL needs, the individual may be asked to

prioritize the goods and services.

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

The DSE grants Federal funds to Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) for the provision of services. These services include: Advocacy, Assistive Devices, Children's Services, Communication Services, Counseling Services, Home Modifications, Information and Referral, Independent Living Training Services, Life Skills Training, Peer Counseling Services, Prosthesis, Rehabilitation Technology, Transportation, and Vehicle Modifications.

The use of Part B funds for this purpose is being redirected to CIL's for Independent Living services that meet core services as defined by the Rehab Act across the state of Nebraska.

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 DSE will grant Federal and State funds to the CIL that serves the panhandle region of the state for the purpose of general operation of a center. Operations of CIL are mandated at a minimum to include:

- ? Information & Referral

- ? Peer Support

- ? Independent Living Skills Training

- ? Systems and Self Advocacy

- ? Transition

- o Youth

- o Nursing Home

The determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for individuals who receive these services has been delegated to the CIL serving that area.

The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program in their catchment areas.

NESILC and CILs will develop process to provide IL services to the unserved and underserved areas of the state as Part B funds are redistributed to serve underserved/unserved areas of the state.

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.

Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska, Inc.(SPIL Signatory)

dba Independence Rising

Receives Part C funding

Address 3335 W Capital

Address 2

City Grand Island

State NE

Zip code 68803-1334

Toll Free Phone None

Phone (308) 382-9255

TTY/TDD (308) 382-9255

Fax 308.530.9209

Email jthomas@cilne.org

Website www.cilne.org

Executive Director Ms. Joni Thomas

Geography:

Counties served by Independence Rising (formerly the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska): Adams, Arthur, Blaine, Buffalo, Chase, Clay, Grant, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Greeley, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock,

Hooker, Howard, Kearney, Keith, Lincoln, Thomas, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Merrick, Nucholls, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Webster, Wheeler, Sherman, Valley

Panhandle Independent Living Services (SPIL Signatory)

Receives Part B funding

Address 1 1455 11th St.

Address 2

City Gering

State NE

Zip code 69341

Toll Free Phone 1-800-644-5352

Phone (308) 635.7901

TTY/TDD (308) 635.7901

Fax 308.635.7676

Email pils@allophone.com

Website

Executive Director Frances Jean Wilkerson

Geography:

Counties served by Panhandle Independent Living Services: Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux.

League of Human Dignity, Inc.(SPIL signatory)

Receives Part C funding

Address 1 1701 P Street

City Lincoln

State NE

Zip code 68508

Toll Free Phone (888) 508-4758

Phone (402) 441-7871

TTY/TDD (402) 441-7871

Fax (402) 441-7650

Address 2

League of Human Dignity Norfolk Center for Independent Living

400 Elm Avenue

Norfolk, Nebraska 68701

402-371-4475 V/TDD

Address 3

League of Human Dignity Omaha Center for Independent Living

5513 Center Street

Omaha, Nebraska 68108

402-595-1256

Email info@leagueofhumandignity.com

Website www.leagueofhumandignity.com

Executive Director Mr. Mike Schafer

Geography:

Counties served by League of Human Dignity in Nebraska: Cass, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Knox, Lancaster, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Washington, Wayne, York, Antelope, Boone, Burt, Butler

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 unserved and underserved geographic areas to focus on are North Central, South East, and northwest Nebraska. There are 6 Counties in the North Central region that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL ? Cherry, Brown, Rock, Hold, Boyd and Keya Paha. There are 5 Counties in the South East Nebraska that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL ? Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson. . North West Nebraska is served by a Center for Independent Living, a center that does not receive any Part C funds. The Part B CIL covers Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties.

? The consumers in these unserved and underserved areas are provided IL services in the following ways:

? The League of Human Dignity conducts Medicaid Waiver Assessments for individuals in these Counties.

? The Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) provides funding coordination for individuals in these counties. Funding sources that ATP works with include, but are not limited to Part B Independent Living funds, Nebraska VR (Vocational Rehabilitation), and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Once funding is in place ATP provides a barrier removal assessment and oversight of the project.

? Through the provision of these services individuals found to be in need of more extensive services to include core services provided by the Centers for Independent Living would be referred to the nearest CIL for those services. Those services would be provided on an itinerate basis.

? During the past year the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska dba Independence Rising continues to operate a satellite office in North Platte, Nebraska. This has better ensured independent living services are available to an underserved part of the State.

? For an increase in Part B funding the SILC will receive 30% of funding total. DSE will receive 5% of funding total. For remaining Part B Independent Living Funding should be allocated at 60% to serve the 11 unserved counties in Nebraska. Process for dividing this money will be determined by NESILC and CILs. The remaining 40% would be set aside for the CIL serving the Panhandle Area of Nebraska and be used to help that center reach the \$250,000 minimum funding to the amount determined to be adequate level of funding based upon cost of staff, salaries and benefits, along with other costs of operation such as rent, supplies, mileage, insurance, etc.

? The SILC would receive 30% of any increase in Part B funding.

? If there is new additional federal Part C Independent Living allocation made available, which is not a general funding or cost of living increase for existing Part C funded centers, Nebraska SPIL priority for the distribution of it would be divided between the Part C centers in a formula of 65% to Independence Rising CIL to help them reach the minimum funding to the \$250,000 amount determined to be adequate level of funding based upon cost of staff, salaries and benefits, along with other costs of operation such as rent, supplies, mileage, insurance, etc. The remaining 35% would be allocated to the League of Human Dignity Once Independence Rising Part C funding reaches \$250,000, additional part C Funding beyond the 65/35 split, would be distributed on a 50/50 level between Independence Rising and The League of Human Dignity.

? Cost of living or additional appropriations for existing Part C centers would be distributed in the formula of 84.5 to The League of Human Dignity and 15.5 to Independence Rising.

? With increased funding to all CILs the current network would meet the needs of all individuals with disabilities providing that a new Part C Center is created by following the established protocol outlined in the Rehab Act as amended by WIOA of 2014 and soliciting new groups and the current Part B Center to submit proposals.

? If any CIL funded by Federal dollars relinquishes their grant(s) and closes their CIL, it is Nebraska's intent to make it a first priority for there to be 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 or state funds, the new CIL may apply for those funds through the contract process as established by the Designated State Entity (DSE) and as consistent with the Nebraska State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). If the ACL grant competition does not result in a new CIL, the federal funds designated for that service area will be divided among the other existing Federally funded CILs the funds will be divided equally among the remaining eligible CILs as determined through the contract process as established by Designated State Entity and as consistent with the Nebraska State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

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.

? University Center on Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) will act as Designated State Entity (DSE)

Sarah Swanson will serve as the liaison to the SILC for University Center on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). In that capacity she attends all quarterly meetings, will serve on 2 committees as required by SILC Bylaws, and assists with the preparation and submittal of the 704 Report and the SPIL.

? UCEDD reviews SILC quarterly progress and expenditure reports which are submitted by SILC and maintains Fiscal oversight annually and processes quarterly payments to the SILC.

? UCEDD maintains annual Fiscal oversight of PILS and PILS submits a copy of financial records quarterly for review and processes quarterly payments to PILS.

? UCEDD, NESILC and CILs will jointly develop process for changes in disbursement of Part B Funds to comply with regulations.

? Funding Coordinator for ATP determines eligibility for and allocates Title VII, Chapter I, Part B funds for approved projects.

? Rehabilitation Associate for ATP provides assistance in processing applications for services and general clerical support for the Title VII, Chapter I, Part B program.

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.

NESILC will receive 30% of Part B every year of this SPIL

? NESILC is a 501 c 3 and staffs and maintains an office in Lincoln, Nebraska.

? This to carry out the SILC duties required by the Rehabilitation Act, including the activities, monitoring, and evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living.

? The SILC provides all meeting space & Council membership provides the human resources needed for all SPIL related activities.

? In addition, 5% of Part B will be provided to UCEDD to act as DSE as outlined in the Rehab Act as amended by WIOA in 2014.

? NESILC staff shall include one part-time Executive Director and one part-time clerical/receptionist and any other staff that SILC identifies and resources allow. Administrative Assistant. In addition, NESILC will work with an accountant/bookkeeper for accounting duties as needed.

o The Executive Director will be hired by the Council. NESILC Executive Committee Chair provides supervision of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's annual performance appraisal will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will hire, supervise, and annually evaluate all other staff.

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.

Annually NESILC will complete a Request for Funds that requires signature of SILC chair regarding the use of IL funds. In addition, DSE will review all expenditures. NESILC will

receive financial reports at meeting. Plus, at the end of the calendar year accountant will do financial review.

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

None

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

Total dependence on Part B funds. NESILC will continue to outsource specific accounting procedures that enhance internal control of the small agency. NESILC will continue to make records available to the DSE for on-site reviews in compliance within the award agreement

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 NESILC was established to meet the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VII, Chapter 1 as amended by WIOA in 2014. The current DSUs and NESILC are splitting and a new DSE the UCEDD will be taking over. The new DSE will be UCEDD. It is a very amical split. Given the fact that the NESILC was created by federal legislation, a state law or governor's executive order was not used to establish a SILC in Nebraska. The NESILC operates as an autonomous, free standing entity whose members were appointed by the Governor's designee. It developed bylaws consistent with mandates of Title VII. In order to more clearly define its rather nebulous legal standing, the Nebraska SILC incorporated and became a 501(c)3 in the 2003. Although the NESILC is now a non-profit corporation, the members continue to be appointed by the Designee, based upon all the requirements in the federal Rehabilitation Act. The Nebraska SILC is an independent entity with respect to the DSE and all other state agencies

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.

Recruitment Policy

The Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council shall be composed of individuals who provide statewide representation; represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds; are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services; and a majority of whom are persons who are individuals with disabilities as

described in section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act and not employed by any State agency or center for independent living.

1. The Recruitment Committee will meet prior to each quarterly meeting of the full Council to determine the ongoing need for people to sit on the Council as voting members.
2. Whether or not there is a position to be filled, the Recruitment Committee will engage in a continuous process to recruit individuals to serve as voting members of the Council.
3. Upon receipt of an application WITH RESUME the recruitment committee will engage in the following activities:
 - a. Review status of all applications, new and existing.
 - b. Contact applicant(s) to determine a time and method to interview the prospective member using a form approved by Executive Committee. Each applicant will be given an interview.
 - c. Discuss applicants' qualifications and interview.
 - d. Recommend or deny prospective candidates to the full Council.
 - e. Report on recommendations at the full Council meeting.
4. The full NESILC board will then vote on whether to forward the applicant's name on to the Designee) for appointment. Candidates will then be informed of their application status.

? After the Department votes, candidates will be informed of either their acceptance or rejection. Successful candidates will be sent orientation and training materials prior to their first full council meeting as a NESILC member.
6. Each member of the NESILC shall serve a term of 3 years. No member of the NESILC may serve more than two consecutive full terms. NESILC and DSE maintain a roster of the NESILC membership to include their term expiration date. At least once a year the NESILC reviews this information to ensure proper and sufficient notification is provided to the member regarding their impending expiration date.

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.

? NESILC staff shall include one part-time equivalency Executive Director and one part-time equivalency Administrative Assistant. In addition, NESILC will work with an accountant/bookkeeper for accounting duties.

o The Executive Director will be hired by the Council. NESILC Executive Committee Chair provides supervision of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's annual performance appraisal will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will hire, supervise, and annually evaluate all other staff.

? NESILC agrees that DSE staff or staff from any other agency or office made available to NESILC will not be assigned any duties that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the NESILC in carrying out its duties

- 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.

? NESILC agrees that DSE staff or staff from any other agency or office made available to NESILC will not be assigned any duties that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the NESILC in carrying out its duties

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.

ATP, as a state agency and as a federally funded Tech Act Program, has a policy emphasizing recruitment of qualified persons with disabilities for project positions. New position openings are posted with centers for independent living, rehabilitation agencies, and service providers working with persons with disabilities in an effort to identify potential qualified persons with disabilities interested in project positions.

In addition, all of the CILs hire individuals with knowledge of IL and individuals 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.

? 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.

ATP has personnel able to communicate in a wide variety of alternative communications modes. These include sign language, augmentative communications devices (maintaining many devices for short term loans to individuals), and amplification systems. ATP provides information and materials in alternative formats as necessary, including electronic formats and Braille (via an agreement with NCBVI). ATP utilizes the AT&T Language line services for communication with non-English speaking individuals over the phone, and contracts with sign and foreign language interpreters as necessary for face to face meetings. Written materials are available in several non-English languages.

If requested Independence Rising (formerly CILNE), League of Human Dignity, Panhandle Independent Living Services and NESILC staff make available to consumer's alternative formats to include: Braille, Sign Language Interpreters, and other formats as necessary.

Independence Rising (formerly CILNE) also works with the community on various formats as needed.

? 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.

All staff of Independence Rising, League of Human Dignity, Panhandle Independent Living Services and NESILC are trained about the Independent Living Philosophy and the use of People First Language.

- 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.

They are made aware of various training and workshops about Independent Living, including various WEB casts presented by ILRU.

- 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.

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.

Independence Rising, League of Human Dignity, Panhandle Independent Living Services and NESILC maintain an affirmative action policy of nondiscrimination as set forth in its statement of values, statement of consumer rights, and employee handbook; and will post position openings with public news media, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Nebraska Workforce Development.

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.

NESILC and Panhandle Independent Living Services will continue to outsource specific accounting procedures that enhance internal control of a small agency. NESILC will continue to make records available to the DSE supervisor for on-site reviews of compliance with the award agreement and applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting guidelines.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

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

The DSE has fiscal controls and accounting procedures as are necessary to ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for funds expended under the its programs, including those expended for Part B. These special procedures will include provisions that all funds will be expended in accordance with the provisions of this program and for authorized activities included in the approved contract for services and Part B Guidelines.

ATP will meet regularly with the DSE fiscal supervisor to report on performance and finances.

PILS and NESILC submits quarterly performance and financial reports. DSE reviews actual expenditures yearly and reconciles statements.

Independence Rising (CILNE) has policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with 34 CFR 364.37.

The League of Human Dignity has appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

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

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

NESILC in conjunction with CILs, ATP and DSE submit annual 704 Report for Part B funds. While League of Human Dignity and Independence Rising (formerly CILNE) submit 704 Report for Part C Funds.

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

NESILC in conjunction with CILs, ATP and DSE submit annual 704 Report for Part B funds. While League of Human Dignity and Independence Rising (formerly CILNE) submit 704 Report for Part C Funds.

6.4 Eligibility

- Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

ATP administers the Part B services in compliance with Part B Guidelines approved by the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council. The guidelines for eligibility are in compliance with 34 CFR 364.51 and are without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

- 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.

. ATP routinely refers individuals to other programs for IL services. This ability is enhanced through another contract with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System for assistive technology and home modifications services under the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver. The intent of this Waiver is to allow individuals with disabilities at risk of institutionalization to remain living as independently as possible in their own homes.

Any individual with a significant disability, as reported by that individual, will be eligible for PILS services. Staff will discuss eligibility requirements with the consumer or advocate and record eligibility without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the person applying for IL 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.

PILS staff will continue to receive requests for information from any person regarding PILS and other available programs, and make referrals to other programs. Staff will provide that information through verbal consultation, printed material supplied by other programs, and directories. PILS will continue to print and update a Panhandle Disability Resource Directory.

The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program

- 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 guidelines for eligibility are in compliance with 34 CFR 364.51 and are without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services

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

United States Citizenship Attestation

For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. ?? 4-108 through 4-114, I attest as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States.

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.

o ATP provides or contracts for IL services based on an IL plan comprised of a Service and Device Application Form (that outlines the requested services, available resources, and demographic and financial information); a Technology Specialist evaluation report (that includes input from the consumer as to what is needed and why, recommendations and justification, a plan and specifications as necessary); cost of the services and available resources (subcontractor quotes and a Service Authorization); and an Acceptance/Agreement form that is signed by the consumer (to signify that the services have been satisfactorily completed).

o Unless the individual signs a waiver, PILS staff will provide IL services in accordance with a written IL plan developed by the individual with a significant disability and the staff member, indicating the goals, objectives and services requested. The plan will be periodically reviewed regarding the continued relevance of services and the appropriateness of referral to other programs. To the greatest extent possible, the plan will be coordinated with the individualized plans of other service programs.

o The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program

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.

ATP informs all individuals seeking or receiving IL services under Part B of the availability of the CAP program and how to contact CAP.

PILS will inform individuals seeking or receiving IL services of the availability of the Client Assistance Program, the purpose of their services, and how to contact the program, through the provision of CAP printed brochures or a PILS statement of Consumer Rights and Responsibilities.

The Nebraska CILs inform all individuals seeking or receiving IL services of the availability of the Client Assistance Program, the purpose of CAP services, and how to contact the program. On

an annual basis the CAP director contacts the CILs to remind them of the services, answer any questions, respond to any issues, and provide training to any new staff members.

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.

ATP uses the Service and Device Application Form as an intake form and that form includes a confidentiality statement and a release of information that is signed by the consumer and kept in the consumer file.

PILS will include confidentiality issues in new staff orientation and periodically in staff meetings of all employees. A statement regarding confidentiality will be included in all staff position manuals. PILS will maintain consumer records within closed units accessed only by staff. Records will not be removed from the PILS office. Consumers will be informed that staff will not release individual information without a signed release of information. The release will specify the information to be released, the receiving agency, and the authorization's date of expiration.

The CILs have appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations to include 34 CFR 364.56(a).

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
Nebraskans with disabilities have opportunities to receive IL services Access to Independent Living Knowledge of Independent Living Improve existing IL system	The CILs and NESILC will meet at least twice a year to review each Goal, Objective and Activity to assess progress on completion of each step or determine a need to reevaluate what is being done.

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

8 State-Imposed Requirements

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

N/A