

# State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended, Chapter 1,  
Title VII

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: Georgia

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN) will work to strengthen effective network operations that are sufficiently funded, ensuring Georgians with disabilities receive community-based supports they need to live in their communities of choice with greater independence. The 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living will focus on state CIL coverage, enhancing accessible and inclusive communities; while providing opportunities for people with disabilities across the state of Georgia. The SPIL contains five goals to complete while keeping true to the mission:

- Increase IL services
- Increase education and resources to transportation
- Increase education and resources to affordable and accessible housing
- Live independently in the community of their choice through
- Increase education and preparedness resources

Efforts to accomplish these will be directed at people with disabilities, the public, policymakers, and the Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN).

The SPIL contains objectives and action steps directed towards the achievement of these goals.

- Continued collaboration between the GILN, DSE and other state agencies
- Maximize advocacy and education opportunities regarding IL services & philosophy
- Strengthen relationships with county and state emergency management agencies

Section 1 - The Statewide Independent Living Council, Georgia (SILCGA) utilized SILC comprised of SILCGA & CIL Directors to work on action steps based on needs assessments. The assembly independently agrees to an integrated and community approach to support Independent Living.

Section 2 - The scope of services provided, are outreach related to unserved and underserved populations, coordination of services and cooperation among programs and organizations to support inclusive community living.

Section 3 - A detailed explanation of expansion of the network, minimum funding levels for CILs, and

distribution of funds.

Section 4 - Represents the Designated State Entity's (DSE) response to their administrative responsibilities related to the SPIL.

Section 5 - The Statewide Independent Living Council's (SILC) establishment, autonomy, resource plan, appointment process, and staffing.

Section 6 - Provides legal certifications for the identified entities involved with authorities and responsibilities of the SPIL.

Section 7 - Identifies the DSE assurances and expresses the administrative role and responsibilities of the DSE.

Section 8 - Provides the SILC Assurances and Indicators of minimum compliance, detailing the functions, authorities, and requirements for operating as a SILC.

The Statewide Independent Living Council, GA (SILCGA), Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity (Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency-GVRA) will continue to work with each other to coordinate efforts to maximize resources to support community life for people with disabilities. SILCGA participates in many collaborations at the state level, taking every opportunity to ensure CILs are maximized, and the IL philosophy is instilled.

The back sections of the plan focus on legal assurances and authorities as well as the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the Director of the Designated State Entity agreeing to fulfill them.

The last section includes the signatures of SILCGA Chairperson and the CIL Directors agreeing to the content of the plan and authorizing its submission to the Administration for Community Living.

It is not predicted all the goals and objectives can/will be accomplished in the three years covered by this plan. But public input over the years has verified that individuals who have access to a CIL truly appreciate them and that individuals who do not have access to a CIL unquestionably want and need a CIL in their area. Therefore, SILCGA, CIL Directors and public input, made practical decision to strengthen the IL network. These efforts will be continued until every individual with a disability in Georgia has access to a CIL and all the services the CILs provide.

# Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

## 1.1 - MISSION

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Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

The GILN will work to strengthen effective network operations that are sufficiently funded, ensuring Georgians with disabilities receive community-based supports they need to live in their communities of choice with greater independence.

## 1.2 - GOALS

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Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: The Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN) is funded and supported to provide increased IL services to people with disabilities.

Goal #2: Increase education and resources on transportation options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.

Goal #3: Increase education and resources on housing options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.

Goal #4: Persons with disabilities will have resources to live independently in the community of their choice through application of services and supports.

Goal #5: Increase emergency preparedness options for people with disabilities in local communities statewide.

## 1.3 - OBJECTIVES

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Objectives for the three-year period of the plan – including geographic scope, desired outcomes, target dates, and indicators. Including compatibility with the purpose of Title VII, Chapter 1.

Goal #1: The Georgia Independent Living Network (GILN) is funded and supported to provide increased IL services to people with disabilities.

Objective #1.1: Funding formula and methodology will be reviewed & updated as necessary to address service expansion through capacity-building and outreach to unserved and underserved IL counties/consumers.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #1.1.1: Funding formula and methodology are reviewed at least once in the SPIL period. At a minimum, underserved and unserved areas will be reviewed.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #1.1.1: Statewide Independent Living Council, GA (SILCGA) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will collaborate to assure equitable distribution of appropriated funding.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #1.2: The GILN advocates for IL program funding for complete state coverage.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #1.2.1: Completed advocacy activities and any outcomes have been identified.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #1.2.1: Continue conversations with the GILN and state entities providing education on CIL philosophy and value of IL services.

Objective Info #1.2.2: Coordinate annual Independent Living Day at the Capitol.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #1.3: The GILN and partners come together to increase resources to better meet the needs of IL consumers.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #1.3.1: The GILN has documented participation in collaborative activities to better meet the needs of people with disabilities, including reporting on outcomes.

Indicator #1.3.2: Study of outcome surveys will show that at least 50% of partners gain innovative knowledge on how to best serve consumers with disabilities.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #1.3.1: CILs disseminate outcome surveys for consumer feedback.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #2: Increase education and resources on transportation options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.

Objective #2.1: GILN, transportation providers, and coordinators will collaborate to improve

transportation options for people with disabilities.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.1.1: Connect transportation providers and/or coordinators, Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO), and CIL staff to exchange information and ideas to further advance transportation services for people with disabilities.

Indicator #2.1.2: The GILN will advocate with transportation coalitions and partnerships to expand transportation options for people with disabilities.

Indicator #2.1.3: Consumers with disabilities will have opportunities to be educated on transportation issues that impact them.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #2.1.1: SILCGA & GILN will attend local, regional and state meetings to collaborate on transportation initiatives and coverage to remain abreast of transit options for consumer resources. SILCGA annual report will indicate outreach and educational efforts.

Objective Info #2.1.2: PPR data will show at least 500 hours (3% increase) spent over the span of the SPIL period on community activities, to address access to transportation.

Objective Info #2.1.3: SILC, CILs will provide at least 3 trainings during the span of the SPIL, statewide to transportation providers on topics such as transportation rights under the ADA, dispatcher and driver etiquette, and advocacy/problem-solving techniques.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #2.2: CILs will connect with state entities to expand transit. Opportunity for expanding transit, including micro transit will be introduced and provided to the CILs.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.2.1: Each CIL will connect with their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at least twice annually.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:**

Objective #2.3: Each CIL and SILCGA will participate in the development of the rural human services transit plan.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.3.1: CILs are listed as a stakeholder for their region rural human services transit plan

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #2.3.1: CILs and SILCGA participate in quarterly meetings.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #2.4: SILCGA in collaboration with the CILs will work to compose a live document that updates the list of transit providers throughout the state.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.4.1: CILs are introduced to entities that promote micro transit

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #2.4.1: CILs will partner with micro transit entities to secure funding for transit options.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #3: Increase education and resources on housing options for individuals with disabilities in local communities statewide.

Objective #3.1: The GILN will advocate with housing coalitions and partnerships to expand access for people with disabilities.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #3.1.1: PPR data will show at least 400 hours (3% increase) spent over the span of the SPIL period on community activities, to address access to housing.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #3.1.1: Partner with CILs and other state agencies to provide train the trainer and consumer trainings on affordable and inclusive housing bi-annually.

Objective Info #3.1.2: Develop a housing resource guide for CIL staff and consumer network, updating annually.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #3.2: The GILN will educate community partners regarding the value and necessity of affordable, accessible and inclusive housing.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #3.2.1: By the end of the first year, public relations materials will be in place for use by GILN entities.

Indicator #3.2.2: PPR data will show at least 500 hours (3% increase) spent over the span of the SPIL period on community activities where education or public information regarding housing was provided.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #3.2.1: SILCGA will provide factsheet(s) including data and impact statements on housing barriers.

Objective Info #3.2.2: SILCGA will provide education on affordable housing needs to developers and local, regional and state housing entities.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #4: Persons with disabilities will have resources to live independently in the community of their choice through application of services and supports.

Objective #4.1: People with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their identified goals of maximizing and increasing their independence in the community. Rationale: Individuals with

significant disabilities being empowered to create and achieve their own self-identified goals is the foundation to the Independent Living Philosophy. Through the work of the GILN, namely the CILs, this Plan will review the goals that are being developed by individuals. Through the self-empowerment of individuals, it not only reinforces the independent living philosophy, but it will also demonstrate the potential that consumers of IL Services have to take greater control of their lives

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #4.1.1: Individuals with disabilities will receive the Five Core services on a consumer driven basis.

Indicator #4.1.2: Conduct training activities as needed to ensure consumers are given the opportunity to set or waive goals, fully participate and control development, if not waived.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #4.1.1: CILs disseminate outcome surveys. Targets: By September 30, 2025, the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of new consumers served in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of goals that have been set by individuals.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #4.2: Individuals with disabilities will gain the independent living skills and knowledge to become more independent. Rationale: Individuals that are requesting Independent Living Services are expressing some need to increase their independence and remove barriers. By reviewing the services and goals completed across the network, we can identify the most applied services.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #4.2.1: The number of individuals receiving IL Services that achieve established goals will increase by 3% through the span of the SPIL.

Indicator #4.2.2: PPR data will show at least 1500 hours spent (3% increase) over the span of the SPIL period on community activities around systems advocacy on issues beyond expansion, transportation and housing.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #4.2.1: CILs disseminate outcome data. Targets: By September 30, 2025, the Centers for Independent Living will report the number of completed consumer goals in the prior reporting year, as well as the number of individual services provided. The CILs will report the data as part of their annual PPR that are submitted to the Administration for Community Living and the SILC.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #4.3: SILC and CILs will collaborate with state entities and/or other stakeholders to promote equitable employment opportunities.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #4.3.1: Collaborate with at least 10 community entities that engage in increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. This includes collaboration on community events, seeking grant opportunities as available and MOUs (when appropriate).

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #4.3.1: SILCGA will advocate for policy change that promote equitable income

options.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #4.4: Personal Care Attendants - Individuals with disabilities have access to a strong network of quality Personal Care Attendants and Support Service Providers to assist them in gaining and retaining as much independence as they choose. Rationale: Individuals with disabilities are challenged with finding and retaining home and community support providers. Minimum pay for necessary services and little to no benefits, have support providers leaving the profession. Caregivers are over worked and underpaid; limiting full community participation to individuals with disabilities. SILCGA will collaborate with other grass-root organizations through education and advocacy informing state agencies and the GA legislature on the need for increased pay and other resource supports.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #4.4.1: Three educational and advocacy activities on personal care attendant and support service provider issues annually.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #4.4.1: 20 education and or advocacy activities on personal care attendant issues over three years to state entities and GA Legislators.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #5: Increase emergency preparedness options for people with disabilities in local communities statewide.

Objective #5.1: SILCGA and the CILs will collaborate with national and state partners on emergency preparedness.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #5.1.1: Three advocacy activities at the state and local level.

Indicator #5.1.2: Each CIL will have stakeholder representation with at least one emergency preparedness organization.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #5.1.1: Ensure local emergency preparedness plan is inclusive of people with disabilities by reviewing the emergency plan and making suggested changes as needed,

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #5.2: SILCGA and the CILs will provide a set of guidelines to be utilized in emergency preparedness.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #5.2.1: Six activities to increase awareness in the disability community.

Indicator #5.2.2: PPR data will show at least 300 hours (3% increase) spent over the span of the SPIL period on emergency preparedness community activities and advocacy.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

Objective Info #5.2.1: CILs will provide annual consumer trainings.

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

## 1.4 - EVALUATION

Methods and processes the SILCGA will use to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL including the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

- Assist in development, implementation, and oversight of the GA State Plan for Independent Living.
- SILC Director will submit monthly reports to DSE on SILC activities.
- Review annual CIL PPR reports. The CILs have agreed to provide PPR reports to the SILC at the end of each federal fiscal year.
- CILs will identify and collect stories from people with disabilities; by way of public forums and meetings when available/possible.
- CILs will conduct consumer satisfaction surveys annually; by way of survey tools i.e. Survey Monkey, paper format, or other tools deemed by each CIL.
- Provide support to the centers through resources and networks in order to support their work plan activities.
- Provide an annual report on the SPIL and the status of GA IL.

The evaluation of the effectiveness of the State Plan's objectives' accomplishments is the responsibility of the SILC Director, CIL Representative, DSE Liaison and Board Chair. The SPIL monitoring individuals will meet quarterly and prepare quarterly reports on progress made on implementing the SPIL. The SILC will prepare annual reports on progress made on SPIL objectives based on PPR data collected from the CILs.

## 1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

| Sources   | Projected Funding Amounts and Uses |             |                        |                       |                                  |           |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
|   | SILC Resource Plan                 | IL Services | General CIL Operations | Other SPIL Activities | Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs | TOTAL     |
| Title VII Funds                                       |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  |           |
| Chapter 1, Part B                                     | \$0                                | \$591969    | \$0                    | \$0                   | \$0                              | \$591969  |
| Chapter 1, Part C                                     | \$0                                | \$0         | \$2677053              | \$0                   |                                  | \$2677053 |
|   |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  | \$3269022 |
| Other Federal Funds                                   |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  |           |
| Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) | \$370000                           | \$0         | \$0                    | \$0                   |                                  | \$370000  |
| Social Security Reimbursement                         | \$0                                | \$0         | \$0                    | \$0                   |                                  | \$0       |
| Other   | \$0                                | \$1599733   | \$0                    | \$575000              |                                  | \$2174733 |
|   |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  | \$2544733 |
| Non-Federal Funds                                     |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  |           |



|                                     |          |           |           |          |     |            |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----|------------|
| Part B State Match                  | \$0      | \$6577433 | \$0       | \$0      | \$0 | \$6577433  |
| Other State Match for Funds in SPIL | \$0      | \$0       | \$0       | \$0      | \$0 | \$0        |
| State Funds                         | \$0      | \$0       | \$1500000 | \$0      | \$0 | \$1500000  |
| Other                               | \$0      | \$0       | \$0       | \$0      | \$0 | \$0        |
|                                     |          |           |           |          |     | \$8077433  |
| TOTAL                               | \$370000 | \$8769135 | \$4177053 | \$575000 | \$0 | \$13891188 |

## 1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency serves as the Designated State Entity that receives the federal and state funds and provides oversight and accounting for the funds. The Independent Living (IL) Network consists of 9 Centers for Independent Living, two state funded satellite offices and the State Independent Living Council and is funded primarily from a combination of three funding sources: Title VII Funds, both Part B and Part C; Innovation & Expansion funds. Other funding sources, such as grants and donations, are available to the IL Network, but those funding sources and opportunities are not covered in this section.

The financial plan provides a combination of funds, including state matching funds, to the CILs and the SILC to enable them to achieve the goals and objectives of this SPIL.

Review Status: Approved

# Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements of Services

## 2.1 - SERVICES

Services to be provided to persons with significant disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility, and statewide reach.

Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Transition Services: Diversion from institutions

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Transition Services: Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

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 disabilities)

Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |

|                             |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Provided using other funds? | Yes |
| Provided By                 | CIL |

Rehabilitation technology

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Mobility training

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation and other support services

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes              |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes              |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes              |
| Provided By                                       | CIL Other (SILC) |

Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living 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

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes                  |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes                  |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes                  |
| Provided By                                       | CIL DSE Other (SILC) |

Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes              |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes              |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes              |
| Provided By                                       | CIL Other (SILC) |

Supported living

Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Therapeutic treatment

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Individual and group social and recreational services

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Services for children

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

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 disabilities

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes              |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes              |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes              |
| Provided By                                       | CIL Other (SILC) |

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

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes              |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes              |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes              |
| Provided By                                       | CIL Other (SILC) |

Such other necessary services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes              |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes              |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes              |
| Provided By                                       | CIL Other (SILC) |

## 2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

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Uploaded Document Name: Georgia Map with Expanded Funding V3.pdf

## 2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

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Georgia has 159 counties; of which, 27 counties that were unserved, became state funded in the FY25 state budget. New state funding will be utilized to provide information and referral services to the formally 27 unserved counties in the state. SILCGA and IL Network have multiple counties currently served by a CIL are underserved. Federal and State funding for Georgia's IL services have slightly increased in the last fiscal year. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to expand their funding sources by seeking private sources of funding. Nevertheless, a majority of CILs rely on federal and state resources for their base funding. SILCGA has also worked to secure additional state funding for satellite office expansion. However, this funding is not guaranteed year after year. It is imperative for our IL Network to secure additional funding to ensure they can meet the needs and serve the counties and populations within their current service areas and priorities. However, as long as the IL Network continues to be underfunded, current service areas and populations will forever remain underserved.

All groups identified above as unserved/underserved live "distant" throughout the 159 Georgia counties. The CILs each have their own outreach plans. This section is to address statewide outreach efforts and is to be separate from, not inclusive of or replacing, the CILs outreach plans.

Data collected from the CIL PPR's shows a percentage of those currently being served are members of marginalized and underrepresented groups in both urban and rural areas.

*Outreach activities and methods to be conducted and who will conduct each:*

- CILs, being cross disability organizations, will continue interaction with appropriate community organizations specific to outreach to the physically disabled, visually impaired, deaf & hard of hearing and I/DD communities.
- CIL staff will collaborate with youth and family focused organizations, e.g., public schools and FODAC (Family of Disabled Adults & Children), etc. to increase independent living opportunities to young individuals with disabilities.
- CIL staff will continue interaction with local community partners that are minority marginalized and underrepresented groups (i.e., gender, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity-Latino/Hispanic, race - African American, Asian-American & Native-American, religion) focused to educate on CIL services and encourage referrals.

Additionally, the SILC & CILs will collaborate with state agencies to maximize resources to increase independent living within their regions/communities. Outreach efforts will consist of, but not limited to, presentations, conference(s) participation, community events, virtual workshops & meetings. All outreach materials will consist of electronic & hard copy options and made available to all within and outside the IL Network through updated websites. Listservs will be maintained, and information will be sent through email blast on a regular basis. An active social media presence will also be maintained in Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

## 2.3 - COORDINATION

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Plans for coordination of services and cooperation between programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities.

Coordination activities will continue to make certain support for integration and full inclusion of

individuals with disabilities in community life. SILCGA and the CILs will continue efforts to coordinate services, emergency response and advocacy through memberships and collaborations with the following, but not limited to:

- Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency
- Division of Aging Services
- Department of Community Affairs
- Georgia Advocacy Office
- Georgia Council of Developmental Disabilities
- National Council on Independent Living
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living
- Tools For Life
- Adult & Disabled Resource Connection
- GA Department of Transportation
- Georgia Emergency Management Agency
- GA Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Review Status: Approved

## Section 3: Network of Centers

### 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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Current Centers for Independent Living including: legal name, geographic area and counties served, and source(s) of funding. Oversight process, by source of funds, and oversight entity.

### 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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Access 2 Independence INC

Counties Served: Chattahoochee, Harris, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Stewart, Talbot, Taylor, Webster

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Oversight Process- CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging services for transition with Money follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Chattahoochee (Limited Services)

Harris (Limited Services)

Marion (Limited Services)

Muscogee (Full Services)

Quitman (Limited Services)

Stewart (Limited Services)

Talbot (Limited Services)

Taylor (Limited Services)

Webster (Limited Services)

Bainbridge Advocacy Individual Network, Inc.

Counties Served: Baker, Calhoun, Clay, Decatur, Early, Grady, Miller, Mitchell, Randolph, Seminole, Thomas, Atkinson, Berrien, Brooks, Clinch, Colquitt, Cook, Dougherty, Echols, Lanier, Lee, Lowndes, Terrell, Tift, Worth

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Baker (Full Services)

Calhoun (Full Services)

Clay (Full Services)

Decatur (Full Services)

Early (Full Services)

Grady (Full Services)

Miller (Full Services)

Mitchell (Full Services)

Randolph (Full Services)

Seminole (Full Services)

Thomas (Full Services)

Atkinson (Limited Services)

Berrien (Limited Services)

Brooks (Limited Services)

Clinch (Limited Services)

Colquitt (Limited Services)

Cook (Limited Services)

Dougherty (Limited Services)

Echols (Limited Services)

Lanier (Limited Services)

Lee (Limited Services)

Lowndes (Limited Services)

Terrell (Limited Services)

Tift (Limited Services)

Worth (Limited Services)

Disability Action Center of Georgia, Inc. dba disABILITY LINK

Counties Served: Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Newton, Rockdale, Butts, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Upson

All Sources of Funding:



Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly, quarterly, and annual Reviews and Reports.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Annual entity-wide audit conducted by independent CPA, Board Financial and Program Reviews. ACL PPR review.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Surveys both external and internal, Annual entity-wide audit conducted by independent CPA, ACL PPR review.

State Funds

Oversight Process: DAS review. DHS review. Funder review and required reports.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (disABILITY LINK receives direct federal funding through the ACL ILA Part C. disABILITY LINK receives federal funds via the state for ACL ILA Part B. disABILITY LINK also receives federal funds via GA Division of Aging (DAS) which includes Money Follows the Person Funds, Older American Act and GA Department of Health (DHS) which includes SNAP Outreach Partnership. Other contracts with different local counties, state and other organizations support different internship programs, youth programs, ICWP services, nursing home transition and home mods.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Cherokee (Full Services)

Clayton (Full Services)

Cobb (Full Services)

Coweta (Full Services)

DeKalb (Full Services)

Douglas (Full Services)

Fayette (Full Services)

Fulton (Full Services)

Gwinnett (Full Services)

Henry (Full Services)

Newton (Full Services)

Rockdale (Full Services)

Butts (Limited Services)

Lamar (Limited Services)

Meriwether (Limited Services)

Pike (Limited Services)

Spalding (Limited Services)

Upson (Limited Services)

Disability Resource Center

Counties Served: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits, annual review of cases and audit.

## State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, monthly completion.

## Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Annual program and financial report on completion.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging Services for transition with Money Follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition, Department of Community Affairs, Local Electric Membership Corporations, Local Community Foundations.)

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

## County Services

Banks (Full Services)

Dawson (Full Services)

Forsyth (Full Services)

Franklin (Full Services)

Habersham (Full Services)

Hall (Full Services)

Hart (Full Services)

Lumpkin (Full Services)

Rabun (Full Services)

Stephens (Full Services)

Towns (Full Services)

Union (Full Services)

White (Full Services)

Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.

Counties Served: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Charlton, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Glynn, Liberty, McIntosh, Tattnall, Toombs, Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Candler, Long, Pierce, Ware, Wayne

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits, annual review of cases and audit.

## State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging services for transition with Money follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition.)

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

## County Services

Bryan (Full Services)

Bulloch (Full Services)

Camden (Full Services)

Charlton (Limited Services)

Chatham (Full Services)

Effingham (Full Services)

Evans (Full Services)

Glynn (Full Services)  
Liberty (Full Services)  
McIntosh (Full Services)  
Tattnall (Full Services)  
Toombs (Full Services)  
Appling (Limited Services)  
Bacon (Limited Services)  
Brantley (Limited Services)  
Candler (Limited Services)  
Long (Limited Services)  
Pierce (Limited Services)  
Ware (Limited Services)  
Wayne (Limited Services)

Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Counties Served: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Ben Hill, Bleckley, Coffee, Dodge, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Laurens, Montgomery, Telfair, Treutlen, Turner, Wheeler, Wilcox

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits, oversight is annual review of cases and audit.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging services for transition with Money follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Baldwin (Full Services)  
Bibb (Full Services)  
Crawford (Full Services)  
Houston (Full Services)  
Jasper (Full Services)  
Jones (Full Services)  
Monroe (Full Services)  
Peach (Full Services)  
Pulaski (Full Services)  
Putnam (Full Services)  
Twiggs (Full Services)  
Wilkinson (Full Services)  
Ben Hill (Limited Services)  
Bleckley (Limited Services)  
Coffee (Limited Services)  
Dodge (Limited Services)

Irwin (Limited Services)

Jeff Davis (Limited Services)

Laurens (Limited Services)

Montgomery (Limited Services)

Telfair (Limited Services)

Treutlen (Limited Services)

Turner (Limited Services)

Wheeler (Limited Services)

Wilcox (Limited Services)

Multiple Choices Center for Independent Living

Counties Served: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Madison, Morgan, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits,

State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging services for transition with Money Follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Barrow (Full Services)

Clarke (Full Services)

Elbert (Full Services)

Greene (Full Services)

Jackson (Full Services)

Madison (Full Services)

Morgan (Full Services)

Oconee (Full Services)

Oglethorpe (Full Services)

Walton (Full Services)

NWGA Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Counties Served: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield, Carroll, Heard, Troup

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits

State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging services for transition with Money Follows the Person, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transition.)

SPIIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Bartow (Full Services)

Catoosa (Full Services)

Chattooga (Full Services)

Dade (Full Services)

Fannin (Full Services)

Floyd (Full Services)

Gilmer (Full Services)

Gordon (Full Services)

Haralson (Full Services)

Murray (Full Services)

Paulding (Full Services)

Pickens (Full Services)

Polk (Full Services)

Walker (Full Services)

Whitfield (Full Services)

Carroll (Limited Services)

Heard (Limited Services)

Troup (Limited Services)

Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc

Counties Served: Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Monthly report to DSE, CIL PPR reports, desk review by DSE, monthly conference meetings with DSE, annual SITE visits on rotation. Quarterly Survey for SILC report on SPIIL Work Plan.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: CIL PPR, Financial Status reports, Desk reviews by ACL. CIL Board of Directors review reports. Financial Audits based on funding levels.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Annual site visits, Data System (Wellsky) desk audits, SSA quarterly reports and financial status forms, desk audits, every 3-year site review, Annual desk review and audit, monthly reports, annual in person program and financial review and desk audits monthly, annual single-point A133 audit.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Data system and monthly reports, desk audits and site visits, monthly meetings with DSE and monthly reports.

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Annual report on completion.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Division of Aging Services for Transitions with Money follows the Person, Social Security WIPA Funds, AT Act Funds, Local AAA's, Chapter 2 Older Blind, Social Security Employment Network Funds, Nursing Home Transition funds for non-Medicaid transitions, three private foundations.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes  
County Services  
Burke (Full Services)  
Columbia (Full Services)  
Emanuel (Full Services)  
GlascocK (Full Services)  
Hancock (Full Services)  
Jefferson (Full Services)  
Jenkins (Limited Services)  
Johnson (Full Services)  
Lincoln (Full Services)  
McDuffie (Full Services)  
Richmond (Full Services)  
Screven (Full Services)  
Taliaferro (Full Services)  
Warren (Full Services)  
Washington (Full Services)  
Wilkes (Full Services)

### 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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#### CIL Network

Explain the criteria for defining the CIL network, bearing in mind that those CILs included in the network should be those eligible to sign the SPIL.

The criteria for defining the CIL network and the CIL's eligibility to sign the SPIL is a CIL who is a federally recognized Center for Independent Living that complies with the standards in section 725(b) and assurances in section 725(c) of Title VII of the Act. Currently, all nine Centers in Georgia are federally funded and all nine also receive Part B funding. For the purposes of this SPIL, all nine CILs are eligible to sign the SPIL.

CIL Service areas are outlined in the narrative of Existing Centers.

### 3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

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Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding, and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase the statewide reach of the Network. (Follow the instructions in Title VII, Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.)

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

The definition of unserved and underserved populations depends much upon the location. Each CIL service area has different underserved groups based on analysis of their own service data in comparison to local demographics. Geographic location as a function of unserved and underserved across the state is partially dependent on a CIL Part B and C service boundaries and partially dependent on factors such as the impact of homelessness in all areas, overwhelming population numbers in some partially served urban areas, and distances between areas within a rural CIL's expansive service area.

For the purpose of this plan, the GILN uses the following definitions for served, unserved and underserved.

Served - individuals who live in counties within a CILs service area.

Underserved - individuals who live within a CILs service area but outside the county where the GA CIL is located.

Unserved - individuals who live in counties that are not in a GA CIL service area.

Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to ensure that each Center receives at least the minimum.

While the goal is to expand the CIL Network to full service across all counties of the state, it is equally important to recognize that the existing 9 CILs need adequate funding. Georgia does not have designated state funding for all the core services for independent living, but we have been successful in gaining some specific funds to assure all counties have a CIL as a resource for Information and Referral and additional services where possible. The size and growth of Georgia still leaves gaps in the current ability of the existing CILs as well as any service expansion. We are committed to pursuing efforts to increase the existing CILs' capacity and redefine base-level funding. The existing CILs vary in population and service area size. For example, one CIL with Part C serves 16 of 159 counties, and another CIL serves 1 of the 159 counties. With state funding, 2 CILs have been able to serve neighboring counties with core services and coming in 2025 another 4 CILs will expand to cover Information and Referral to the Unserved 27 counties in the state, meaning Georgia can say a CIL provides at least one service in every county. Due to population and geography, each existing CIL has a separate base level of funding that adequately supports services within the CIL service area, populations, expected growth and disability needs. The agreed upon base-level funding for each existing Part C CIL is minimally \$500,000 and for disABILITY LINK Part C counties minimally \$1,500,000. Until each CIL has minimally this level of funding from Part C, we would not expand for full-service coverage:

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

Georgia's main priority is to support the needs of existing Centers for Independent Living (CIL) in their efforts to establish an effectual statewide network of Independent Living services. The priority for additional Part C dollars is to proportionally distribute additional available Part C funds to bring all the CILs to the Part C recommended base funding level. The counties for expansion should be provided based on the plan for increasing state fund coverage.

Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes.

If an existing CIL (funded with Part B or C) grant is relinquished or terminated, the funding would be distributed to one or two of the current existing CILs, The CIL selected would need to have approval by the CIL's own board of directors prior to this consideration going to SILCGA for SPIL amendments. Until the grant process is completed, the CIL network will work together to ensure that consumers in the service area are adequately served by temporarily dividing the closed CIL's Part B/C funding until the grant process is completed. Because of the expense of operating as a singular entity and the lack of new funding to cover increasing operational expenses in existing centers, it is preferred that no additional CILs open - rather the current CILs expand. This is the model that has been adopted when presented with new state funding as we believe an existing center is more stable and can disburse expenses. This also allow for more consistency among services due to established leadership and programming. It is noted that the CIL acquiring additional counties and funds would need to be in good standing by ACL and the DSE. The GA peer network has adopted Peer Mentoring for Sustainable Support. This MOU between the centers, SILC, and DSE is utilized when a fellow CIL has been notified of a corrective action that may impact Part B, C or state funding that may indicate it cannot satisfactorily meet the CIL standards and

assurances or SPIL objectives. The GA CIL Network will also not make recommendations for additional funding while a center is on any type of probationary status with ACL or the DSE.

Plan to build capacity of existing CILs and/or expand statewide reach by establishing branch offices and/or satellites of existing CILs.

Plan/formula for distribution of new funds (Part B, Part C, one-time funds, etc.)

Any one-time funding will be proportionately distributed to the existing CIL network following the percentages in main priority to be used to maintain and/or increase the capacity of the CILs. Additionally, any new state funding to the Georgia IL Network, up to three percent (3%) will be distributed to SILCGA for administrative costs.

Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced.

If reductions occur, the Georgia Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center's service area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. Part C funds are distributed by the ACL and any potential reductions are managed at the CIL level. If Part B funding is decreased by more than 30%, the SPIL will be reviewed and/or revised to ensure achievable goals and the appropriate funding allocation to support the CILs. Any reductions are harmful to the CILs' goals and would need careful attention to assuring that the best solution to securing all centers is achieved and no center is put at risk by means outside of their control.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible.

The General Assembly's investment of \$1.5 million will provide 27 unserved counties I&R services and further support the remaining underserved counties so our state's people have the opportunity to achieve independence. These funds delegated by the legislature and are recurring for operational expenses. Expanding outreach and itinerant services are essential for Georgia's current Centers for Independent Living to reach people with disabilities who live lives of isolation in our state's poorest and most rural counties.

1. Access2Independence in Columbus - expand I&R Services in the following 5 Counties: Crisp, Dooly, Macon, Schley & Sumter. These counties are home to about 90,000 Georgians.
2. Disability Connections in Macon - expand I&R Services to 13 Counties in South Central Georgia: Ben Hill, Bleckley, Coffee, Dodge, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Laurens, Montgomery, Telfair, Treutlen, Turner, Wheeler and Wilcox. Over 250,000 Georgians live in these counties.
3. disABILITY LINK in Atlanta - expand I&R Services to 6 counties to the south of Metro Atlanta: Butts, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding & Upson. Nearly 200,000 Georgians live in these counties.
4. NW GA CIL in Rome - to expand I&R Services to 3 counties to the Southwest of Metro Atlanta: Carroll, Heard & Troup. Nearly 200,000 Georgians live in these 3 counties.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

Temporary changes to CIL service area(s) and/or funding levels would be detailed and agreed upon by the SILC and CILs in a SPIL amendment.



# Section 4: Designated State Entity

## 4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

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Vocational Rehabilitation Administration will serve as the entity in Georgia designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

### 4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

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- receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;
- keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
- 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).

### 4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

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Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) serves as the DSE. In carrying out its duties and functions as the DSE, GVRA assures that it will receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under Title VII, Part B of the Act in accordance with the approved SPIL.

The CILs prepare budget proposals for Part B funds that are submitted to the DSE for approval. The SILC is funded by a mix of I & E and State General Funds; and also submits a budget proposal to the DSE for approval. GVRA then enters into contract with the CILs and the SILC. The funds are distributed through a grant agreement and activities and responsibilities are described in their Contracts. CILs send monthly reports to meet reporting requirements and the PPR annually. The SILC fulfills its reporting requirements by submitting monthly reports and the PPR annually. GVRA also receives and disperses State funds appropriated for CIL satellite office expansion. GVRA does not accept 5% of the Part B appropriation.

### 4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

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State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including:

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC
- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329
- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

There are no state imposed requirements on IL.

### 4.4 - GRANT PROCESS & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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Grant processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds.

Instructions: Describe the processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the

awarding of grants of Part B funds including: (all of the following are required)

Process for soliciting proposals

The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) serves as the DSE. In carrying out its duties and functions as the DSE, GVRA assures that it will receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under Title VII, Part B of the Act in accordance with the approved SPIL.

The CILs prepare budget proposals for Part B funds that are submitted to the DSE for approval. The SILC is funded by a mix of I & E and State General Funds; and also submits a budget proposal to the DSE for approval. GVRA then enters into contract with the CILs and the SILC. The funds are distributed through a grant agreement and activities and responsibilities are described in their Contracts. CILs send monthly reports to meet reporting requirements and the PPR annually. The SILC fulfills its reporting requirements by submitting monthly reports and the PPR annually. GVRA also receives and disperses State funds appropriated for CIL satellite office expansion. Development of format for proposals

Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

## 4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

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The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The DSE has a designated a liaison to work with SILCGA to discuss expenditures, program needs, and planning.

GVRA monitors, evaluates, and reviews funds and CIL activity on Part B and State IL grants through monthly reports, financial reports as well as quarterly and annual individual program performance reports submitted by all CILs receiving funding through GVRA.

## 4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

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722 State

Review Status: Approved

# Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

## 5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

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How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The SILCGA was incorporated as a non-profit has received 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service, March 1996, and is independent of all state agencies, including the DSE. The SILCGA is governed by a board of directors with members appointed by the governor. The council operates under its own by-laws. The DSE recognizes the SILCGA as an independent entity in all aspects of interaction. The contract between the SILCGA and the DSE focuses on SPIL activities rather than on day-to-day SILC operations which are clearly the responsibility of the SILC Executive Director and

Board Officers. Additionally, SILCGA has its own operating budget and is independently located separately from the DSE. The SILCGA is an established entity that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act and is registered with the GA Secretary of State's Office.

## 5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

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Resources (including necessary and sufficient funding, staff/administrative support, and in-kind), by funding source and amount, for SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities.

Funding sources may include "Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds authorized by 29 U.S.C. 721(a)(18); Independent Living Part B funds; State matching funds; [state allotments of Vocational Rehabilitation funding;] other public funds (such as Social Security reimbursement funds); and private sources."

\$370,000 Innovation & Expansion Funds for FY 2025

\$370,000 Innovation & Expansion Funds for FY 2026

\$370,000 Innovation & Expansion Funds for FY 2027

\$50,000 State Funds annually for FY25, FY26 and FY27

The SILCGA will maintain staff and an office appropriate to the efforts necessary to carry out the work of the Council. The resource plan outlined above identifies the federal and state funds provided by the DSE for the operation and management of the SILCGA in accordance with its federally designated duties and authorities. The Resource Plan supports management and operation of the SILCGA, including but not limited to, staff, IT systems & services and all other routine business services, maintaining not for profit 501(c)3 status, contractual services necessary to meet the designated duties and authorities of SILCGA, board training and development, travel costs and reasonable accommodations for members & staff needed to conduct its duties and activities as authorized in section 705(c). The SILCGA is autonomous and responsible to manage its budget. The SILC Resource Plan includes budgeted resources for:

- Council and Committee Support which is broken down for:
  - Quarterly Meeting Costs, Reimbursements and Compensation of Members
  - Conferences and Training for Members
  - Committee Meeting Costs, Reimbursements and Compensation of Members
- State Plan Objective Resources which is broken down for:
  - Needs Assessment
  - General Education and Advocacy
  - A Statewide Independent Living Conference
  - Partner Education and Outreach
  - Youth Initiative Support
  - Miscellaneous SPIL Expenses
  - Travel Reimbursements for CIL visits
- Administrative Costs
  - Equipment and Supplies
  - General Expenses
  - Salary and Benefits
  - Conferences & Training for Staff
- Contingency Expenses

SILC staff positions consist of a full time Executive Director, a part time Assistant Director, one full time Mobility Coordinator, one full time Housing Policy Coordinator, one part time Advocate/Outreach Coordinator/Administrative Assistant.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The SILCGA, CIL Directors and the DSE met during SPIL development and will have agreed on the amounts for the SILC Resource Plan. SILCGA and the DSE committed to use of Innovation and

Expansion funds for the SILC Resource Plan.

As an independent and autonomous organization, SILCGA is responsible for management of its budget and any expenditures. The SILCGA agrees,

- To develop, monitor, review and evaluate State Plan for Independent Living
- Have quarterly board meetings, open to the public
- Assure diverse membership on its board and provide leadership training
- Implement resource plan that support SILCGA activities
- Conduct advocacy and educational activities that support full inclusion for individuals with disabilities.
- Collaborate with CILs on expanding existing center capacity and future center expansion
- SILCGA shall not provide independent living services directly to individuals with significant disabilities or manage such services.

Over the course of the SPIL period, the SILC intends to implement all of its authorities in support of the objectives called out in the SPIL. This includes:

- Working with CILs to improve coordination with other entities.
- Conducting resource development activities to support SILC function and independent living services.
- Educating and advocating regarding the needs of Georgians with disabilities and the impacts program and policy decisions have on them.

Process for disbursement of funds to facilitate effective operations of SILC.

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the SILCGA develops a budget that SILCGA Board reviews and approves. This budget is submitted along with proposed contract deliverables to the DSE; these deliverables are based on SILC responsibilities in the current SPIL and functions in 34 CFR 364.21 (g). After the contract is executed, SILCGA submits a monthly programmatic report and a monthly expense report to the DSE Liaison who reviews (a) the monthly report, which reveals progress on SPIL goals and (b) the SILC invoice. Upon approval of the invoice, the SILCGA is reimbursed for the prior month expenditures toward contract deliverables.

Programmatic reports are also sent to the Board on a monthly basis and an annual financial report(s) are provided at Board meetings.

The SILCGA contract with the DSE requires that funds are managed in accordance with state and federal regulations. The contract also requires an annual financial review conducted by a CPA firm, which forwards this review to the DSE and the Office of Audits. SILCGA contracts with a CPA firm to conduct its annual review of financial reports in accordance with state and federal requirements. Financial reports are forwarded to the DSE, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts and to the SILC board. Additionally, the SILCGA has written financial policies and procedures that specify separation of duties and internal controls designed to assure appropriate of funds.

Payment documents will be processed by the DSE's fiscal department, with funds disbursed to the SILCGA electronically. As required by 45 C.F.R. § 1329.14, the process for disbursing of funds to facilitate SILC operations will preserve the SILC's independence and autonomy. No conditions or requirements will be included in the SILCGA Resource Plan or contract that compromise the independence and autonomy of the SILC.

Justification if more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan.

### 5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

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How State will maintain the SILC over the course of the SPIL.

Instructions: Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Indicate who appoints members to the SILC, how the State ensures that the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met, how the chair is

selected, how term limits are maintained, and how SILC vacancies are filled. Describe how the specific SILC-staffing requirements listed in the SPIL Instrument will be addressed. Concisely describe or cite relevant written policies, procedures, by-laws, technical assistance, and monitoring activities, or other practices.

Describe how the State will ensure that: (all of the following are required)

The SILC is established and operating

The SILCGA was incorporated as a non-profit has received 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service, March 1996, and is independent of all state agencies, including the DSE. The SILCGA is governed by a board of directors with members appointed by the governor. The council operates under its own by-laws. The DSE recognizes the SILCGA as an independent entity in all aspects of interaction. The contract between the SILCGA and the DSE focuses on SPIL activities rather than on day-to-day SILC operations which are clearly the responsibility of the SILC Executive Director and Board Officers. Additionally, SILCGA has its own operating budget and is independently located separately from the DSE. The SILCGA is an established entity that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act and is registered with the GA Secretary of State's Office. Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

All residents of the State of Georgia are eligible to apply for appointment to the SILCGA board of directors. SILCGA Nomination Applications shall be available on the SILCGA website, from the SILCGA office and whenever requested. Appointments to the Council will continue to be made by the Governor, from nominations provided by SILCGA. The SILCGA will continue to solicit applications statewide, review all applications received considering experience & expertise, un/under-represented areas of the state, and diversity. Nominees will be selected, ensuring the maintenance of a majority of people with disabilities not employed by a CIL or state agency, and approved by the full SILCGA Board of Directors. SILCGA staff will continue to maintain records of appointments and term limits and periodically review them with the DSE and Governor's staff to ensure term records match and term limits are enforced. The SILCGA Chair is elected every three years by the voting members of the Council. The Governor's office makes final appointments to the SILCGA. The SILC is organized in a way to ensure it is not part of any state agency

The SILCGA will maintain staff and an office appropriate to the efforts necessary to carry out the work of the Council. The resource plan outlined identifies the federal and state funds provided by the DSE for the operation and management of the SILCGA in accordance with its federally designated duties and authorities. The Resource Plan supports management and operation of the SILCGA, including but not limited to, staff, IT systems & services and all other routine business services, maintaining not for profit 501(c)3 status, contractual services necessary to meet the designated duties and authorities of SILCGA, board training and development, travel costs and reasonable accommodations for members & staff needed to conduct its duties and activities as authorized in section 705(c). The SILCGA is autonomous and responsible to manage its budget. The SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties and authorities, including "[working] with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, . . . conducting resource development, and performing such other functions . . . as the [SILC] determines to be appropriate

Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the SILCGA develops a budget that the SILC Board reviews and approves. This budget is submitted along with proposed contract deliverables to the DSE; these deliverables are based on SILC responsibilities in the current SPIL and functions in 34 CFR 364.21 (g). After the contract is executed, SILCGA submits a monthly programmatic report and a monthly expense report to the DSE Liaison who reviews (a) the monthly report, which reveals progress on SPIL goals and (b) the SILC invoice. Upon approval of the invoice, the SILCGA is reimbursed for the prior month expenditures toward contract deliverables. Programmatic reports

are also sent to the Board on a monthly basis and an annual financial report(s) are provided at Board meetings.

The SILCGA contract with the DSE requires that funds are managed in accordance with state and federal regulations. The contract also requires an annual financial review conducted by a CPA firm, which forwards this review to the DSE and the Office of Audits. SILCGA contracts with a CPA firm to conduct its annual review of financial reports in accordance with state and federal requirements. Financial reports are forwarded to the DSE, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts and to the SILC board. Additionally, the SILCGA has written financial policies and procedures that specify separation of duties and internal controls designed to assure appropriate of funds.

Payment documents will be processed by the DSE's fiscal department, with funds disbursed to the SILCGA electronically. As required by 45 C.F.R. § 1329.14, the process for disbursing of funds to facilitate SILC operations will preserve the SILC's independence and autonomy. No conditions or requirements will be included in the SILCGA Resource Plan or contract that compromise the independence and autonomy of the SILC.

Necessary and sufficient resources are provided for the SILC Resource Plan to ensure the SILC has the capacity to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities

The State will continue to maintain the SILCGA as it has done in the past. The DSE will continue to provide Innovation & Expansion funding and support to ensure the SILCGA is operating and maintained over the course of the SPIL. SILCGA will continue to develop its own budget and will operate with autonomy to fulfill the duties and elected authorities.

Review Status: Approved

## Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

### 6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

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The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.

Authorized representative of the DSE Chris Wells. Title: Executive Director.

### 6.2 - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

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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 is Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council.

### 6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

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The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) eligible to sign the SPIL, a minimum of 51% whom must sign prior to submission, are:

Access 2 Independence INC

Bainbridge Advocacy Individual Network, Inc.

Disability Action Center of Georgia, Inc. dba disABILITY LINK

Disability Resource Center

Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.

Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Multiple Choices Center for Independent Living

NWGA Center for Independent Living, Inc.

Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc

## 6.4.A

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The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living.

Yes

## 6.4.B

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The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL.

Yes

## 6.4.C

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State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL.

Yes

Review Status: Approved

# Section 7: DSE Assurances

## DSE ASSURANCES

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Chris Wells acting on behalf of the DSE Vocational Rehabilitation Administration located at:

Street: 200 Piedmont Avenue SE: West Tower. Suite 1408

City: Atlanta

State: Georgia

Zip Code: 30334

## 7.1

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The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;

## 7.2

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The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;

## 7.3

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The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;

## 7.4

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The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in 45 CFR 1329.14;

## 7.5

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The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:

1. Expenditure of federal funds
2. Meeting schedules and agendas
3. SILC board business



4. Voting actions of the SILC board
5. Personnel actions
6. Allowable travel
7. Trainings

## 7.6

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The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).

## 7.7

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The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;

## 7.8

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The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:

1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

## DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

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Chris Wells

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Executive Director, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Chris Wells

Electronic Signature

06/28/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

# Section 8: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance



## 8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

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Shelia Kitchens acting on behalf of the SILC Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 315 W Ponce de Leon Ave Ste 660

City: Decatur

State: GA

Zip Code: 30030

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

1. The SILC regularly (not less than annually) provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments;
2. The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the Act;
3. The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;
4. The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
5. The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;
  - The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
  - The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.
6. The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities;
7. The State Plan shall provide assurances that the designated State entity, any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with operations of the SILC, except as provided by law and regulation and;
8. The SILC actively consults with unserved and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include, indigenous populations as appropriate for State Plan development as described in Sec. 713(b)(7) the Act regarding Authorized Uses of Funds.

## 8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

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Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 706(b), 29 U.S.C. Sec 796d-1(b)), as amended and supported by 45 CFR 1329.14-1329.16; and Assurances for Designated State Entities (DSE) as permitted by Section 704(c)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 796c(c)(4)), as amended.

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

1. SILC written policies and procedures must include:
  - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
  - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
  - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - e. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
    - i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
    - ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
  - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
  - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing

- and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
- h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
2. The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
  3. The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.
  4. The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
    - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
    - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
    - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
    - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
      - i. proximity to public transportation,
      - ii. physical accessibility, and
      - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
    - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
  5. The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
    - a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
  6. The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
    - a. Sufficient funds received from:
      - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
      - ii. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
      - iii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
      - iv. Other public and private sources.
    - b. The funds needed to support:
      - i. Staff/personnel;
      - ii. Operating expenses;
      - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
      - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
      - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
      - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

## SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

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The signature below indicates the SILC's agreement to comply with the aforementioned assurances and indicators:

Shelia L Kitchens  
Name of SILC Chair  
Shelia L Kitchens  
Electronic Signature  
06/27/2024  
Date  
I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

## Section 9: Signatures

### SIGNATURES

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The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Georgia Statewide Independent Living Council and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is 10/01/2024

#### SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

|  |
|--|
| Shelia L Kitchens<br>Name of SILC Chair<br>Shelia L Kitchens<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/27/2024<br>Date |
|--|

#### CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

|   |
|---|
| Multiple Choices Center for Independent Living<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Garrick Scott<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Garrick Scott<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/25/2024<br>Date |
|---|

|   |
|---|
| Bainbridge Advocacy Individual Network, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Malissa Thompson<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Malissa Thompson<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date |
|---|

|  |
|--|
| Disability Resource Center<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Nancy Peeples<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Nancy R Peeples<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date                                |
| NWGA Center for Independent Living, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Christina Holtzclaw<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Christina Holtzclaw<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date        |
| Living Independence for Everyone, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Neil Ligon<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Neil C. Ligon<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/25/2024<br>Date                         |
| Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Tiffany Clifford<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Tiffany L. Clifford<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date         |
| Disability Action Center of Georgia, Inc. dba disABILITY LINK<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Kim Gibson<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Kim Gibson<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date     |
| Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Michael Leverett<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Michael L. Leverett<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/24/2024<br>Date |

Access 2 Independence INC  
Name of Center for Independent Living  
Kirk Holcombe  
Name of CIL Director  
Kirk Holcombe  
Electronic Signature  
06/25/2024  
Date

Review Status: Approved