

COLORADO STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

Subchapter B –Independent Living Services

Subchapter C - Centers for Independent Living

State: Colorado

Fiscal Years: 2025-2027

Effective Date: October 1, 2024

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number (OMB 0985-0044). Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 240 hours per response, including time for gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to receive financial assistance (Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended).

Executive Summary

The SILC held strategic planning during the previous SPIL and developed new mission and vision statements:

Mission: “Paving the pathways to full participation for the community of people with disabilities served by Colorado’s centers for independent living.”

Vision: The Colorado Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) envisions a Colorado that offers equal and full participation in professional and community life to all people with disabilities.

In alignment with both of these, the 2025-2027 SPIL is focused on:

- 1) The Colorado IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.
- 2) The IL Network will promote the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the affordability, attainability and access to integrated housing in their respective community.
- 3) The Colorado IL Network will support Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures to explore options and make informed choices about benefits planning.

These goals will include several objectives, including:

- Objective: 1.1: The SILC and CILs will work together to promote State and local emergency officials to include individuals with disabilities, and address unique needs in emergency planning such as mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.
- Objective 2.1: Increase Advocacy and Representation for the need of integrated housing resources.
- Objective 2.2: Enhance Access to Information and Resources surrounding the housing options throughout the state.
- Objective 2.3: Foster Community Engagement and Inclusion of local and state housing advocacy boards.
- Objective 3.1: Increase Awareness and Understanding of Social Security Benefits Planning resources and education
- Objective 3.2: Foster Community Partnerships and Collaboration that revolve around State and Federal Benefits.

We'll know we are moving toward success when:

- 1.1.a. Coloradans with disabilities engage in emergency planning by creating a statewide coalition to share concerns and provide information sharing.
- 1.1.b. Coloradans with disabilities are making personal emergency plans and the importance of local involvement in planning.
- 1.1.c. Each IL Center in Colorado shall have a designated Point of Contact (POC) person to post and share if in the event someone needs to inquire and/or coordinate Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Management related activities.
- 2.1a: Number of individuals with disabilities engaged in advocacy efforts for housing affordability, attainability, and access.
- 2.1b: Percentage increase in representation of individuals with disabilities in housing-related decision-making bodies and committees.

- o 2.2a: Number of informational workshops or training sessions conducted on housing rights, resources, and options for individuals with disabilities.
- o 2.2b: Percentage increase in individuals with disabilities accessing housing-related information through IL Network resources, websites, or helplines.
- o 2.2c: Number of partnerships established with local housing agencies, non-profits, and government entities to disseminate housing information to individuals with disabilities
- o 2.3a: Number of community events or initiatives promoting inclusivity and accessibility in housing.
- o 2.3b: Percentage increase in the sense of community belonging reported by individuals with disabilities in housing initiatives supported by the IL Network.
- o 3.1a: Number of informational workshops conducted on social security benefits planning.
- o 3.1b: Percentage increase in participants' knowledge about different types of social security benefits.
- o 3.2a: Number of partnerships established with local disability advocacy organizations, social security offices, and community centers.
- o 3.2b: Percentage of participants who report increased access to community resources related to social security benefits planning.
- o 3.2c: Number of joint events or initiatives organized with community partners to raise awareness about social security benefits.

The 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living also includes:

- A chart of services currently being provided by the existing CILs as well as a description of their service areas.
- A financial plan showing current resources and their uses and a chart with detailed uses of the federal and state funds governed by this plan.
- An outreach plan detailing activities to be implemented to reach out both statewide and unserved/underserved populations.
- A detailed evaluation plan to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of this plan.

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity (CO Division of Vocational Rehabilitation/Office of Independent Living Services) will continue to work closely with each other to collaborate on opportunities to maximize resources to support community life for people with disabilities.

The SILC has broad statewide representation, which provides opportunities for coordination. The SILC and full CIL Network participate in many collaborations at the state level, ensuring CILs are maximized and the IL philosophy is infused throughout CO.

The last 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 comply with them. In addition, the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the CIL Directors agreeing to the content of the plan and authorizing its submission to the Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services.

We've heard from our partners and consumers that access to a CIL is critical and our goals and objectives reflect increasing these opportunities. The SPIL team included CIL Directors, the SILC, the DSE and input from our stakeholders to continue to build our CIL Network.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Mission

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL.

Mission of the Colorado SILC is “Paving the pathways to full participation for the community of people with disabilities served by Colorado’s centers for independent living.”

Vision: The Colorado Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) envisions a Colorado that offers equal and full participation in professional and community life to all people with disabilities.

1.2 Goals

Goals of the IL Network for the three-year period of the plan.

Colorado’s Independent Living Partners (DSE, SILC, and the Statewide Network of Independent Living Centers) commit the next three years to:

- The Colorado IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.
- The IL Network will promote the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability, attainability, affordability and access to housing resources in their chosen community.
- The Colorado IL Network will provide avenues for Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures to explore options and make informed choices about benefits planning.

1.3 Objectives

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.

- 1. The Colorado IL Network will promote and advocate for the integration, inclusion and equity of all Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures.**

Objectives:

1.1: State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities, and address unique needs in emergency planning such as mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.

Purpose:

1.1a. The SILC, CILs and community members with disabilities will engage in advocacy efforts that reduce the barriers to resources that individuals with significant disabilities encounter

during local, statewide and national disasters and emergencies. Efforts will focus on Regional Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Office of Disability Integration Integration (ODIC), local Emergency Managers, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), State and Regional Red Cross Offices, the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, the Colorado Division of Public Health and other state and local entities that may impact lifesaving access to resources for people with disabilities before, during and after an emergency.

1.1.b. We have determined the most effective way to accomplish inclusion at all stages of disaster is to forge relationships and understanding with the organizations above prior to an emergency through shared concerns and advocacy. Further, as we educate and support Coloradoans with disabilities about the importance of individual and community emergency planning, people with disabilities are better prepared; and increasingly advocate for, and are included in, all phases of emergency management.

Benchmarks/Indicators:

1.1.a. Engage Coloradoans with disabilities in emergency planning by creating a statewide coalition to share concerns and provide information sharing. Increase the number of people with disabilities involved with emergency planning by 20% annually. Baseline: 0 – SILC members will survey participants quarterly, requesting information about the value of participation, barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned.

1.1.b. Provide options to Coloradoans with disabilities in making personal emergency plans and the importance of local involvement in planning. SILC members will collect and evaluate surveys from 60% of people trained in Emergency Preparedness, demonstrating that they have or plan to complete a personal emergency plan; and would like to connect to statewide or local emergency planning.

1.1.c. By June 2027, each IL Center in Colorado shall have a designated Point of Contact (POC) person to post and share if in the event someone needs to inquire and/or coordinate Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Management related activities.

Timeline: October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2027

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Data Collection Process:

1.1.a. Survey will request information about barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned.

Quarterly SPIL - Progress is collected by the SPIL Monitoring committee and reviewed quarterly by the SILC for effectiveness and potential revision.

1.1.b. Training surveys are collected and compiled after each CIL or SILC workshop or individual training opportunity and reported by the SPIL Monitoring Committee Via a SPIL survey.

Quarterly SPIL - Progress is collected by the SPIL Monitoring Committee and reviewed quarterly by the SILC for effectiveness and potential revision.

2. The IL Network will promote the voice of individuals with disabilities in improving the availability, attainability, affordability and access to housing resources in their chosen community.

Objectives:

- 2.1: Increase Advocacy and Representation for the need of integrated housing resources.
- 2.2: Enhance Access to Information and Resources surrounding the housing options throughout the state.
- 2.3: Foster Community Engagement and Inclusion of local and state housing advocacy boards.

Purpose:

The SILC, CILs and community members with disabilities will engage in advocacy efforts to promote equitable access to integrated housing resources, information, and options across the state, while fostering community engagement, inclusion, and advocacy for individuals and families in need of housing support. Efforts will focus on regional and state Housing Authority Boards, Housing Urban Development (HUD), Health and Human Services (HHS) and other state and local entities that may impact integrated housing resources and information.

Benchmarks/Indicators:

- 2.1a: There is an increase by 5 annually, individuals with disabilities are engaged in advocacy efforts for housing affordability, attainability, and access.
- 2.1b: There is an increase of 20% annually in representation of individuals with disabilities in housing-related decision-making bodies and committees.
- 2.2a: There is an increase of informational workshops or training sessions conducted on housing rights, resources, and options for individuals with disabilities.
- 2.2b: There is an increase of 20% annually in individuals with disabilities accessing housing-related information through IL Network resources, websites, or helplines.
- 2.2c: There is an increase of partnerships established with local housing agencies, non-profits, and government entities to disseminate housing information to individuals with disabilities.
- 2.3a: There is increased awareness of community events or initiatives promoting inclusivity and accessibility in housing.
- 2.3b: There is an increase of 10% annually in the sense of community belonging reported by individuals with disabilities in housing initiatives supported by the IL Network.

Timeline: October 1, 2024 — September 30, 2027

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Data Collection Process:

- 1.1.a. Survey will request information about barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned. Quarterly SPIL - Progress is collected by the SPIL Monitoring Committee and reviewed quarterly by the SILC for effectiveness and potential revision.
- 1.1.b. Training surveys are collected and compiled after each SILC workshop or individual training opportunity and reported by the SILC Monitoring Committee Via a SPIL survey.

3. The Colorado IL Network will provide options for Coloradoans with disabilities across communities, lifespan and cultures to explore, and make informed choices about benefits planning.

Objectives:

3.1: Increase Awareness and Understanding of Social Security Benefits Planning resources and education.

3.2: Foster Community Partnerships and Collaborations that revolve around State and Federal Benefits.

Purpose: The SILC, the CILs and community members with disabilities will engage in local and statewide advocacy efforts that help to break down the paradigm that currently surrounds benefits and not being able to hold employment while applying or receiving benefits. Efforts will focus on the Disability Innovation Fund (DIF) Grant, the ICAN Grant, National Expansion of Employee Opportunities Network (NEON) technical assistance and the Securing Employment and Economic Keys to Success (SEEKS) research project and other state and local entities that educate and provide resources for people with disabilities who are navigating the process of applying for state or federal benefits as well as seeking or holding employment.

Benchmarks/Indicators:

3.1a Number of informational workshops conducted on social security benefits planning.

3.1b: Percentage increase in participants' knowledge about different types of social security benefits.

3.2a: Number of partnerships established with local disability advocacy organizations, social security offices, and community centers.

3.2b: Percentage of participants who report increased access to community resources related to social security benefits planning.

3.2c: Number of joint events or initiatives organized with community partners to raise awareness about social security benefits.

Timeline: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2027

Geographic Scope: Statewide, Rural Focus

Data Collection Process:

1.1.a. Survey will request information about barriers addressed, successes and lessons learned.

Quarterly SPIL - Progress is collected by the SPIL Monitoring Committee and reviewed quarterly by the SILC for effectiveness and potential revision.

1.1.b. Training surveys are collected and compiled after each SILC workshop or individual training opportunity and reported by the SILC Monitoring Committee Via a SPIL survey.

1.4 Evaluation

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

Narrative: To facilitate the SILC's duty to monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan, the CO IL Network (CILs, SILC, and DSE) agrees to the evaluation plan as described below.

An ad hoc committee of the SILC will evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL and CIL consumer

satisfaction levels through:

- Conducting quarterly Surveys (this can be done through phoning a random sample of consumers and partners every 6 months in which the interviewer in-puts answers into the shared surveys) and share them with the IL Network so as many as possible are able to access the results
- Outreach to all CIL Directors quarterly to receive updates on relevant objectives,
- Facilitating yearly focus groups in various areas of the state to gather input from CIL consumers, partners, and stakeholders on the effectiveness of the SPIL goals,
- Reviewing PPRs each year (and progress reports each quarter) to identify areas of success or continued barriers in serving targeted geographic areas, unserved and underserved populations, and
- A yearly report will be generated from above evaluation steps; the report will be distributed and reviewed with CIL Directors and full SILC. This will allow the SILC to identify any issues that would indicate the need to adjust the SPIL in response to the evaluation results. Through consultation with the CILS, a decision can then be made as to whether a SPIL amendment should be developed.

1.5 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.

Note: Deviation from this projected budget plan may require a technical amendment.

Notes regarding Sources:

- Other Federal Funds include, but are not limited to, title I funds available under section 101(a)(18) of the Act, Social Security payments, funding from Housing and Urban Development, and funding received from other Federal programs such as the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program.
- Non-Federal Funds include, but are not limited to, State and local government funds as well as non government funds from individual donors, foundations, corporations and community organizations. State government funds include matching funds in compliance with section 712(b) of the Act, general revenue funds and funds made available through other State programs such as Medicaid reimbursements, Aging and Developmental Disabilities Councils, etc.

Fiscal Year(s): 2025, 2026, 2027					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds	\$101,615	0	\$1,477,362	0	
Chapter 1, Part B	\$101,615	0	\$220,166	0	\$16,935
Chapter 1, Part	0	0	\$1,257,196	0	

C				
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$37,776	0	0	0
Social Security Reimbursement	0	0	0	0
Other	\$63,776		\$249,866	
Non-Federal Funds				
Part B State Match	\$30,224	0	\$6,811,653.50	0
Other State Match Funds in SPIL				
State Funds	\$10,224	0	\$6,811,653.50	0
Other	\$20,000	0	0	0

Narrative: All Part B funds are extrapolated from FY 2023 allotment. Chapter C funds taken directly from ACL website. Section 101 (Innovation and Expansion) is calculated by 78.7% of \$48,000 DSE I&E funds. Non Federal Funds: \$6,800,847 includes Part B match funds from the CILS and 10% match of received Part B funds of \$1,693. State funds of **\$10,224 is the State Match** for the \$48,000 of I&E funds. Additionally, the \$6,800,847 is the SFY 2023 allotment amount.

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 state wide reach.

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CILs, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information and referral - IL skills training - Peer counseling - Individual and systems advocacy - Transition services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life 	Yes	Yes	CILs
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	Yes	Yes	CILs
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.	Yes	Yes	CILs
Rehabilitation technology	Yes	Yes	CILs
Mobility training	Yes	Yes	CILs
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	Yes	Yes	CILs
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	Yes	Yes	CILs
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	Yes	Yes	CILs
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	Yes	Yes	CILs
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	Yes	CILs
Supported living Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	Yes	Yes	CILs
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems	Yes	Yes	CILs
Physical rehabilitation	Yes	Yes	CILs

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CILs, DSE, or the other entity)
Therapeutic treatment	Yes	Yes	CILs
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	Yes	Yes	CILs
Individual and group social and recreational services	Yes	Yes	CILs
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	Yes	Yes	CILs
Services for children	Yes	Yes	CILs
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	Yes	Yes	CILs
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future	Yes	Yes	CILs
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	Yes	Yes	CILs
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	Yes	Yes	CILs

2.2 Outreach

Definition of Unserved and Underserved:

How services will be made available to populations that are unserved/underserved by Part B and Part C (including minority groups and urban and rural populations) and how outreach will be conducted.

Definitions:

Unserved and underserved definition: populations of individuals who are not being served through a CIL, or receive significantly fewer services by the CIL network.

Targeted Geographic Areas: defined as counties that had 15 or fewer individual served for the year in 2023

Archuleta, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Conejos, Crowley, Custer, Dolores, Elbert, Gilpin, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lake, Mineral, Ouray, Park, Phillips, Rio Blanco, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, Sedgewick, Washington and Yuma.

Outreach to Geographic Areas: CIL Network will explore creative ways to develop satellite offices in rural areas – could be sharing office space with another agency. Once trust and

relationships have been developed, ensuring on-going services are received through such means as appropriate, including video and tele conferences.

Underserved age groups: consumers under 5 are the least served age group with 14 served statewide; 6 - 24 are also underserved (143) in the CIL network (*as determined by the PPR*).

Outreach to underserved age groups:

HS youth with disabilities: CILs are continuing to provide increased outreach to youth in schools, such as through 4 successful YLFs; continuing and expanding services to youth in schools through fee for services pre-employment transition services.

Under 5: To increase CILs service to consumers under five (5) years of age, CILs will outreach to pre-kindergarten programs, Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council, schools, hospitals and other organizations that would connect CIL staff with families of toddlers that have disabilities with the result of expanding services to toddlers with disabilities and their families.

Underserved disabilities: Consumers with cognitive, mental/emotional, hearing and vision disabilities receive fewer services statewide (*as determined by the PPR*).

Outreach:

Hearing: CIL staff who serve this population will explore holding quarterly meetings to share best practices, outreach ideas, and create communication opportunities for those with hearing disabilities. Medicaid recipients who are hearing impaired also meet quarterly to discuss services.

Mental/Emotional: CIL Network will explore avenues of training (could be through Office of Behavioral Health, SAMSA, Peer Organizations/Agencies, etc.), such as how to work with an individual with a significant mental illness, and explore peer mentoring training for these populations.

Vision: CIL Network will explore outreaching with the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind, DVR's Blind and Low Vision Unit, to let these agencies share information that CILs can offer; increase peer groups for consumers with low vision and blindness.

Cognitive: CIL Network will explore avenues of training (could be through HCPF, ARCs, Autism Society, etc.), such as how to work with individuals with a variety of different cognitive disabilities; explore peer mentoring training for these populations.

Minority Groups: CIL Network will explore avenues to provide information about services to the Less than English Proficient (LEP) groups that reside in the community by learning about and implementing Language Access Plans (LAPs) to ensure these groups have equal access to the CIL Network and the services offered through it.

2.3 Coordination

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

Narrative: In order to increase awareness and understanding of the work of the CILs, and increase partnerships with state governments, the IL Network will have effective communication with leaders of organizations that have an impact on our consumers. The Colorado IL Network will target HCPF, DOLA (DOH), Emergency Management, DVR, and DHS to coordinate membership on committees and stakeholder groups, invite targeted representatives to be on the SILC, and propose quarterly meetings between the leads of each department and the IL Network.

The SILC and full IL Network will continue to outreach to, and coordinate with, other state boards, councils and agencies with a focus on disabilities, including:

- DD Planning Council
- Mindsource (Brain Injury)
- Behavioral Health Planning Council
- State Rehabilitation Council
- Office of Employment First
- Association of People Supporting Employment First
- Alliance Colorado
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Local Workforce Centers
- Local high schools and post-secondary entities
- The Colorado Advisory Council for Persons with Disability
- The Rocky Mountain ADA Center
- Area Agency on Aging and Adult Resources
- The Colorado Commission for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf Blind
- The Colorado Assistive Technology Program
- The Veterans Administration
- The Client Assistance Program
- DOLA/Division of Housing
- State Medicaid Agency (Health Care Policy and Financing), specifically CTS, the Colorado Community Choice Act, and the Medicaid Buy-In for Working Adults with Disabilities.
- State Youth Council
- State Workforce Development Council
- Rural and frontier social service agencies, mental health providers and other organizations and agencies addressing the needs of consumers with significant disabilities.
- Long Term Care, including the Colorado Living Advisory Group and the Regional Care Collaborative Organization

The SILC, CILs and DSE have a yearly planning retreat; the DSE has a representative on the SILC, and the SILC has a representative on the SRC. This allows for clear communication throughout the year. The SILC coordinates closely with the ACCIL Planning Committee in facilitating the yearly IL Conference which has an attached youth track which is facilitated by the SILC Youth Committee.

Since the inaugural year in 2023 of the statewide IL conference that was facilitated by ACCIL, there continues to be collaborating in all these networks, as well as inviting other entities that serve and advocate for people with disabilities.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers

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.

Narrative: All certified Centers in Colorado are a part of the statewide network that serves all 64 counties with Part B and State General Funds. Only 5 are Part C CILs and they cover

36 of the 64 counties. The network provides cross disability services and, depending upon their location within the state, their underserved consumers may include: Deaf and hard of hearing, people of color, youth, people living in nursing homes, seniors with vision loss, rural and frontier counties, people who are less than english proficient, and/or people with mental illness.

Legal Name	Counties Served	Funding Source(s)	Oversight Process	Oversight Entity	SPIL Signatory (Yes/No)
<i>Atlantis Community</i>	Part B Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Clear Creek, Adams, Jefferson (shared with CPWD) Part C: Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Clear Creek, Jefferson (shared w/ CPWD), Adams (shared with CPWD)	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B Part C	Submit PPR to ACL/OILP, within 30 days submit to DSE after due date to federal government	ACL/OILP	
<i>Center for Disabilities (dba Center Toward Self Reliance)</i>	Part B: Alamosa, Bent, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Rio Grande, Saguache Part C: Baca, Bent, Crowley, Custer, Fremont, Huerfano, Kiowa, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B Part C	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st . Part C: Submit PPR to ACL/OILP, within 30 days submit to DSE after due date to federal government	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Center for Independence</i>	Part B: Chaffee Part C: Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, San Miguel	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B Part C	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st . Part C: Submit PPR to ACL/OILP, within 30 days submit to DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	

<i>Center for People with Disabilities</i>	Part B: Broomfield, Gilpin, Jefferson (shared with Atlantis) Part C: Adams (shared w/ Atlantis), Boulder, Weld (shared w/ Connections)	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B Part C	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st . Part C: Submit PPR to ACL/OILP, within 30 days submit to DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Connections for Independence</i>	Part B: Logan, Phillips, Sedgewick Part C: Larimer, Logan, Washington, Weld (shared w/ CPWD), Yuma	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B Part C	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st . Part C: Submit PPR to ACL/OILP, within 30 days submit to DSE	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Colorado Springs Independence Center</i>	Part B: Cheyenne, El Paso, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Park, Teller	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st .	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Disabled Resource Services</i>	Part B: Jackson, Larimer	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st .	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Northwest Colorado Center for Independence</i>	Part B: Grand, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, Summit	State General Funds State Formula Match Part B	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to DSE by October 31 st .	DSE and ACL/OILP	
<i>Southwest Center for Independence</i>	Part B: Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan	State General Funds	Contract for Part B CILS requires PPR to be submitted to	DSE and ACL/OILP	

		State Formula Match Part B	DSE by October 31 st .		
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Note: DSE provides on-going fiscal/financial monitoring, either on site or desk audits for all CILs. DSE monitors compliance with the Rehab Act standards and indicators and WIOA relevant regulations. SILC and DSE create the program performance report and DSE submits.

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

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 state wideness of Network.

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved:

Served definition: Population of individuals engaged with and benefited from the resources and supports available to them through the CIL Network.

Unserved and underserved definition: Populations of individuals who are not being served through a CIL, or receive significantly fewer services by the CIL Network.

Targeted Geographic Areas: defined as counties that had 15 or fewer individuals served for the year of 2023.

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

State General Funds (SGF) make up the majority of funding for the Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in Colorado. The State Legislature passed a bill SB 15-240 that provides **each Certified CIL receives a base funding amount not less than \$600,000 per center.** For any amount of State General Funds above the base for each CIL, it is distributed in accordance with the funding formula agreed to by the CILs that address additional factors attributed to a funding formula which is found in State rules, 9.207.3.

9.207.3 STATE ALLOCATION FOR DELIVERY OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

- A. *The Block Distribution of state monies to independent living centers.*
 - (A) *A base amount of not less than six hundred thousand dollars; and*
 - (B) *Other factors agreed to by the independent living centers, which may include a per capita adjustment, a per county adjustment, or other adjustments.*
- B. *Certified Centers for Independent Living will be allocated General Funds in addition to their base amount of General Funds with a weighted formula that divides County disability population, plus County population, and Land Area by population to determine for each County. The resulting figure is the amount which each CIL will receive.*

Specific calculations of the formula are:

- A. *1st assign each Colorado County a score of: 40% x (County 16-64 Disability Population/State 1664 Disability Population)*

- B. 2nd add the weighted score of: $20\% \times (\text{County } 65+ \text{ Population} / \text{State } 65+ \text{ Population})$
- C. 3rd add the weighted score of: $40\% \times (\text{County Quantile Average of Land Area} / \text{Population})$
- D. 4th multiply this score of each County by the available funds;
- E. 5th divide it by 100.
- F. 6th sum up all the county scores from within each CIL's catchment area. CILS whose catchment areas share a County shall report to the Department, how they will allocate County scores between them. If these CILS do not reach an agreement, the Department shall determine and document the allocation of County scores between the CILs.

Center operations will be funded through Chapter 1, Parts B and C funds, in addition to State General Funds.

These funds are allocated to Certified Colorado centers for independent living, consisting of five Part C centers and four state funded centers. State General Funds provide a base of \$600,000 for each Center, and any additional SGF are allocated based on an agreed on formula. Part B funds have been allocated based on a five-tier system developed to offset the disparities in Part C and local funding. In order to receive SILS funding, all centers must be currently certified in compliance with Title VII, Section 725 of the Federal Act, as defined in 34 CFR 366.60.

Match for Part B funds: The 10% match for the part B funds is established by the Centers for Independent Living through the contracts with the DSE. The DSE requires the CIL contractors provide proof and verification of the 10% Part B match. The CILs provide a match at 14.62% to cover the Part B funds used by the SILC. The DSE provides a match using State General Funds for their 5%.

Part B Formula:

As stated above, the CO CILs provide a match of 14.62% of Part B Funds to the SILC. The distribution of the remaining 65% of the Part B Funds are allocated based on a five-tier system developed to offset the disparities in Part C and local funding:

Tier 1:

Atlantis: 3.89%

Tier 2:

Center for Independence: 6.39%

Center for People with Disabilities: 6.39%

Tier 3:

The Independence Center: 10.39%

Tier 4:

Center Toward Self-Reliance: 13.39%

Connections for Independent Living: 13.39%

Tier 5:

Disabled Resource Services: 15.39%

Northwest CO Center for Independence: 15.39%

Southwest Center for Independence: 15.39%

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

The CO CIL Network will look at county distribution currently in place to determine best coverage areas; should there be areas where limited services are available in certain counties, these areas/counties will be prioritized for the future establishment of a new CIL. Currently, the CIL network in Colorado serves all 64 Colorado Counties. The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Rules Section 9.203.3 APPLICATION, CERTIFICATION AND RECERTIFICATION OF CENTERS [Eff. 4/1/13] demonstrates the steps necessary in establishing a new certified Center for Independent Living.

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

In the case of a CIL closure, the rules established by the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will be followed. The Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Rules: **9.207.2 INDEPENDENT LIVING ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE [Rev. eff. 4/1/13] identifies the process for determining the distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a CIL.**

- A. The SILC, CIL Network, and DVR shall participate in an Independent Living Allocation Committee. The Chairperson of the SILC shall make the appointment of two members who are advocates for individuals with disabilities and are not affiliated with CILs. The CILs Network shall appoint two individuals. The Director of DVR will appoint two individuals. The total number of allocation committee members shall equal six, two from each group.
- B. The Independent Living Allocations Committee will work to establish criteria for allocating funds from the State General Fund for Independent Living and Federal Part B funds.
- C. All funding formulas submitted by the allocation committee shall be in compliance with State funds remaining in the catchment area of the closed CIL as well as abiding by the current Federal and State laws and regulations, including annotations and footnotes in appropriations, and the State Plan for Independent Living.
- D. DVR/OIL will ensure that the Independent Living Allocations Committee participates in any change of funding allocation that is in DVR/OIL procedures. The final decision of how to allocate funds is the responsibility of DVR/OIL.

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

The CO CIL Network will explore creative ways to develop satellite offices in rural areas, including sharing office space with another agency. Once trust and relationships have been developed, ensuring on-going services are received through such means as appropriate, including video and tele conferences.

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

Funds above the determined amount of the regular Part C allocation, the formula for Part B, and the SGF base will be used, providing:

- a. For Part B Funds: DSE receives 5%; SILC receives 30% with the remaining 65% distributed according to the Part B formula (attached)
- b. State General fund is distributed according to the formula described in Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation rules section: 9.207.3

Short Term Funding: Funds that are short term in nature and do not have a provision for ongoing sustainability will be used for special projects, or to expand the capacity of existing CILs, with an emphasis on underserved populations (as defined previously through consensus of the SILC, DSE and existing network of CILs). The funding source requirements will be followed.

CILs may independently apply for funding sources; CO's CIL Network has a best practice of collaborating with the DSE for seeking further funding sources that will benefit all centers. The CIL Directors and DSE meet monthly to discuss potential funding opportunities.

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

Funds Below Regular Allocation: Funds under the determined amount of the regular Part C allocation, the formula for Part B, or the SGF base of \$600,000 (or other funds that include a provision for continuation), will be used to bring additional money to existing CILs. Funds will be distributed based on the order of greatest need. Greatest need will be determined by consensus of the SILC, DSE and network of existing CILs. (Formula for part b applies for state general funds; formulas need to be revisited when next census data is released) *The DSE has sought guidance from the attorney general to determine what will occur should the **state general fund** be decreased, reducing the \$600K to each CIL. As necessary, when adjusting the distribution of funds when cut/reduced, the rules established by the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will be followed (9.207.2 INDEPENDENT LIVING ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE)*

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.

Currently there is no plan for changes to center service areas.

In general, the CO IL Network has continued plans to partner closely with DVR to provide and expand pre-employment transition services on a contract or fee for service basis. The SILC has become a 501c3 which will also allow for expansion of services throughout the state.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Independent Living Services will serve as the entity in Colorado 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.¹

4.1 DSE Responsibilities:

¹ Sec. 704(c).

- (1) Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- (2) 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;
- (3) Keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- (4) Submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
- (5) Retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).

1. The DSE acknowledges its role as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State.
2. The DSE must make timely and prompt payments to Subchapter B funded SILCs and CILs:
 - a) 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;
 - b) When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Subchapter B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle;
 - c) 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 transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693 r);
3. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff;
 - a) 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 Section 705(e)(3) of the Act.
4. 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;
5. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in Section 1329.14 of the WIOA regulations (45 CFR 1329.14);
6. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
 - a) Expenditure of federal funds,
 - b) Meeting schedules and agendas,
 - c) SILC board business,
 - d) Voting actions of the SILC Board,
 - e) Personnel actions,
 - f) Allowable travel,
 - g) Trainings.

The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the state.

4.2 Administration and Staffing: DSE Assurances

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The 5% of the Part B appropriation is monitored by the Office of Independent Living Services and the Chief Financial Officer at DVR, and as such, does not draw down more than 5% of Part B appropriation. The remaining Part B funds are then distributed to the CO SILC (30%), and 65% are then distributed to the Part B CILs as designated by formula. The 5% administration costs are specifically used to serve as the fiscal sponsor of the SILC and oversee contracts with the CILs. The Office of Independent Living Services is primarily funded through state general funds and these funds are used to match Part B dollars. The Office of Independent Living Services will provide its budget quarterly to the SILC and CIL Directors.

When DSE employees serve as staff to the SILC, describe how the SILC will hire, fire, and supervise such staff.

The SILC and DSE conduct weekly meetings to discuss administrative requests, ensuring that administrative tasks are occurring in a satisfactory manner to the SILC. The SILC practices its autonomy of this issue through the regular meetings with DSE staff, directing DSE staff to perform specific tasks, such as submitting travel requests, other cost reimbursements, and providing regular input to DSE as needed. The CO SILC does not contract with the DSE for staffing support nor provide direct supervision to DSE staff. SILC supervision of administrative tasks are conducted during the weekly meeting. The SILC chair meets individually with the DSE employee as necessary. When the CO SILC engages into a contract with the state under a 501c3 status, the Executive Director of the SILC will provide direct supervision, hiring and firing to clerical support for the SILC. The SILC Chairperson, with input from the SILC Executive Committee, will supervise the Executive Director.

Describe how the DSE will assure that such staff will not be assigned to other projects/activities that would create a conflict of interest with their SILC responsibilities.

DSE staff are not members of the SILC, not voting members of SILC so there is no conflict of interest with the SILC. See above. The DSE has an official ex-officio member serving on the SILC (non-voting member), outside of the staff performing SILC related to cost reimbursements and other related tasks. Defined as the DVR Representative.

4.3 State Imposed Requirements

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

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration or operation of IL programs
- 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

The State of CO requires an executive order to be in place for the SILC, this executive order mirrors all requirements for the Act and IL regulations. While the State serves as a fiscal sponsor of the SILC, the SILC must follow state procurement rules. As a contractor with the State, the SILC must still abide by federal uniform guidance. **Oversight Process for Part B Funds**

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The DSE follows state procurement rules for executing a contract related to Part B funds. The DSE follows federal uniform guidance in processing allowable reimbursements requested by a Center for Independent Living. The DSE conducts annual fiscal audits with each Center for Independent Living to ensure compliance with federal uniform guidance. The DSE hosts monthly financial manager calls with the CILs to answer any questions regarding expenditure of funds and budgeting. Additionally, the DSE conducts and requires CIL certification following the assurances and indicators outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. CIL certification is a requirement for the State to enter into a contract with State and federal funds in the provision of Independent Living Services.

4.4 Grant Process and Distribution of Funds

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

DSE follows the State's procurement rules in awarding contracts with the Centers for Independent Living in Colorado. The DSE executes contracts with the CILs to distribute both Part B funding and State General Funds. The DSE follows the funding formulas for Part B and State General Funds respectively for each contract awarded to a CIL. The DSE rule under the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Independent Living Services: 9.200 address topics related to Certifying a Center for Independent Living; allocation of funds; and, a description of an allocation committee. To have an executed contract, CILs need to be certified by the state in accordance with the standards and indicators laid out in the Rehab Act. The state, along with a peer reviewer (CIL Director), conducts certification visits at a minimum of every three years, but may perform a visit when extenuating circumstances exist. The contracts are awarded based on the catchment area served. Annual fiscal desk audits occur with all CILs, conducted by state and DSE. The state requires that each contractor submit an interim progress report, annual progress report, and evaluation after each contract is completed. This process is the same for continuing funding as well as any new contracts. When a continuing resolution for federal funds is in place, the formula described previously is utilized.

4.5 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

The DSE follows state procurement rules for executing a contract related to Part B funds. The DSE follows federal uniform guidance in processing allowable reimbursements requested by a Center for Independent Living. The DSE conducts annual fiscal audits with each Center for Independent Living to ensure compliance with federal uniform guidance. The DSE hosts monthly financial manager calls with the CILs to answer any questions regarding expenditure of funds and budgeting. Additionally, the DSE conducts and requires CIL certification following the assurances and indicators outlined in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. CIL certification is a requirement for the State to enter into a contract with State and federal funds in the provision of Independent Living Services.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one: *To indicate which applies to your state*

722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)

723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The Colorado SILC was established following revisions to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1992, under Senate Bill 97-141. It is an autonomous body with control of its finances for which the DSE is the fiduciary agent. The SILC is awarded a budget amount by DVR and the Centers, but creates its own line item allocations and makes its own decisions about expenditures. Members are appointed by the governor through the state's Boards and Commissions office. The SILC has a process in place for recruiting, interviewing, and choosing new SILC members. Recommendations are made to Boards and Commissions, and appointments are made by the governor. The DSE plays no part in membership or financial decisions other than ensuring compliance with state fiscal rules and the executive order that established the Colorado SILC.

Per the Executive Order, the SILC can meet up to six (6) times per year at different locations around the state in order to hear public comment, be visible in the community, expend the travel budget as equitably as possible, and acquaint SILC members with Colorado's CILs. Committee meetings are usually accomplished by conference call.

The SILC has obtained its status of a non-profit in Colorado and has finalized IRS paperwork to become a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that functions as a fully autonomous entity. In this capacity the SILC may lease an office, retain staff, conduct daily activities and administer both public and private funds. Funding for the SILC originates with the Administration for Community Living. Those funds are then granted to the SILC by the DSE. Holding the status of a 501(c)(3) has helped the SILC to raise additional funds from other sources, both public and private. A focused effort on this will continue by the SILC to ensure sustainability to accomplish our mission.

While the SILC has a very effective collaborative working relationship with its DSE and other state agencies, the organization is recognized and operates as an independent entity with autonomy in its daily operations, development and implementation of the SPIL and advocacy for Independent Living issues for Coloradans with disabilities.

5.2 SILC Resource Plan

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.²

Sources and amounts of funding – The CO SILC receives 30% of Part B funds, approximately \$104,418 each year. The DSE provides \$48,000 in I&E funds yearly. As the SILC finalizes becoming a 501(c)3, continued focus on resource development will occur. *These funding amounts are necessary and sufficient to ensure the capacity of the SILC to fulfill all the duties and selected authorities (section 705 (c) of the Act).*

Staff/Personnel Costs – The SILC recently contracted to fill the SILC Coordinator role which will provide administrative support. The DSE provides some administrative support to the SILC. The SILC also benefits from volunteers in all of the active committees.

² Sec. 704(b), sec. 705(e), 45 CFR 1329.12(b)(2) and 1329.15 (c)(1)-(6).

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

For Part B Funds, an allocation committee, with reps from CILs, DSE and SILC develop the formula for distribution.

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

The Resource Plan is dependent upon the SILC budget and the full SILC votes on the budget. Weekly meetings occur between the SILC and the DSE to discuss expenditures of the SILC. The DSE has committed resources to monitor expenses and disbursement of funds, while the SILC provides information and guidance, while remaining fully autonomous. A monthly budget is reviewed with the SILC executive committee and the DSE to monitor Resource Plan and SILC Budget. The DSE does not include any requirements for the Resource Plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC. Any proposed expenditures outside of the budget must be approved by the SILC and the budget adjusted accordingly.

NOTE: Pursuant to 45 CFR 1329.15(c)(4), the DSE may not include any conditions or requirements in the SILC Resource Plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How the State will maintain the SILC over the course of the SPIL.³

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b).

Indicate who makes appointments 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.

The Colorado SILC, follows all mandates set out in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. These slots must be filled in accordance with Section 705. The SILC By-Law reflects the same composition.

Although the SILC reviews applications and makes recommendations for membership, the final membership decision is made by the Governor as applications are presented by the State Boards and Commissions office. Boards and Commissions acknowledge the necessity of compliance with Section 705 and the Executive Order in regard to SILC composition. New members can only be added if they do not adversely affect the balance of a majority of people with disabilities who are not state or CIL employees. It is also the responsibility of that office to determine which slot is to be filled, and whether the member fills the remainder of an existing term or the full term of a vacancy. SILC By-Laws reflect Section 705 and the Executive Order as to the term limits of two full three year terms for any SILC member.

³ 45CFR 1329.14(a) & (b) and 1329.12(b)(2)

SILC Membership Process:

1. An Interested individual is referred to the SILC website to complete the pre-application.
2. SILC Coordinator passes application along to Membership Chair.
3. SILC Membership Chair distributes pre-application to members of the SILC Membership Committee.
4. SILC Membership Chair schedules an interview with the prospective member with the Membership Committee.
5. The Membership Committee interviews the prospective applicant.
6. Membership Committee discusses the applicant and makes a recommendation for or against bringing the potential member's application to the entire SILC.
7. The candidate is then invited to attend the next SILC meeting - generally May - with expenses covered and coordinated with the DSE.
8. Membership committee recommends the candidate for membership during the SILC meeting.
9. Candidate attends the August meeting (with expenses covered and coordinated with the DSE) and provides a short intro.
10. At that meeting, full SILC votes on the candidate.
11. After the SILC meeting, the candidate completes the full Boards and Commission application if not already done.
12. The Membership Chair drafts a recommendation letter, then provides that and any attachments to the SILC Chair, who routes the packet through the DSE for approval. The SILC Chair then submits the packet to the Governor's Boards and Commission office, also asking for a copy to the candidate's B&C application (which, if obtained, is routed to the Membership Chair.
13. Governor approval is given, both candidate and SILC Coordinator are notified.
14. The new member now attends future SILC meetings.

Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Office of Independent Living Services.

Authorized representative of the DSE: Kristin Corish, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

6.2 Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

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: **The Colorado Statewide Independent Living Council.**

6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs):

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

- Atlantis Community
- Center for Independence
- Center for People with Disabilities
- Center Toward Self-Reliance
- SouthWest Center for Independence
- Connections for Independent Living
- The Independence Center
- Disabled Resource Services
- NorthWest Colorado Center for Independence

6.4 **Authorizations**

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living. ___(Yes/No)

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carry out each provision of the SPIL. ___ (Yes/No)

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

___(Yes/No)

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Kristin Corash, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation acting on behalf of the DSE Colorado Department of Labor and Employment/Division of Vocational Rehabilitation located at 633 17th St, Suite 500, Denver, CO 303-318-8568 45 CFR 1329.11 assures that:

- 7.1. 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. 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. 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. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. 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. 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. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. 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. 1693-1693 r).

The signature below indicates this entity/agency's agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL.

Kristin Corash, Director, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

Signature

Date

Electronic signatures may be used for the purposes of submission, but a hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

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

8.1 Assurances

Evan Shockley, CO SILC Chairperson, acting on behalf of the CO SILC, located at _____
633 17th Street, Suite 500, Denver, CO 80202, evan.shockley@coloradosilc.org,

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;
 - a. The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
 - b. 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.

Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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 timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC "Executive Session" meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws;

- 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;
 - 1. 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;
 - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iii. 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.

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

Evan Shockley
 Name of SILC chairperson

Signature	Date
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Electronic signatures may be used for the purposes of submission, but a hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

Section 9: Signatures

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 CO SILC 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 October 1, 2024

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	DATE
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Evan Shockley

NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

Center for Independence

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

David Nelson

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Atlantis Community

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Center for People with Disabilities

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Maria Stepanyan

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Connections for Independent Living

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Rochelle Mitchell Miller

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Center for Disabilities (dba Center Toward Self Reliance)

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Susan Lindeman

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Northwest CO Center for Independence

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Ian Engle

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Southwest Center for Independence

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Kelsey Bell

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Disabled Resource Services

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Denise Meyer

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

The Independence Center

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Indy Frazee

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Electronic signatures may be used for the purposes of submission, but a hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.