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ARKANSAS STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

**CHAPTER 1, TITLE VII OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973,
AS AMENDED**

**STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROGRAM
PART B**

**CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM
PART C**

FISCAL YEARS 2021-2023

Effective Date: October 1, 2020
OMB Number: 1820-0527

To comment on the Plan, please click here:

<https://arsilc.wufoo.com/forms/arkansas-state-plan-for-independent-living-spil-m10ntyxi1jysaw9/>

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Executive Summary

The mission, goals, and objectives to support activities of the Arkansas (AR) three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for 2021-2023 are defined in Section 1 of the State Plan. The mission of the AR IL network and this SPIL is to increase advocacy skills and provide services that support and empower people with disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities of choice.

The SPIL contains four goals to achieve intermediate progress toward the mission:

1. Arkansans with disabilities will engage and acquire skills in a Center for Independent Living (CIL) that increases awareness and knowledge of the importance of their own personal power to direct the course of their own lives and independence.
2. Arkansans with disabilities will have physical and programmatic access to opportunities that increase Independent Living and Community Integration.
3. The Arkansas IL network will seek opportunities to build capacity and sustain expansions through systems change in collaboration with partners throughout Arkansas.
4. The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) will successfully implement, monitor and evaluate the SPIL.

The SPIL contains objectives directed toward the achievement of these goals. Each objective contains a set of measurable indicators to assess progress and impact. A consistent set of measurable indicators will assess impact for each objective to the ultimate areas of change identified in the IL network mission: increase in the advocacy skills, provide services that support and empower people with disabilities.

It is not anticipated that all the goals and objectives can be achieved in the three years covered by this plan. Public input over many years has demonstrated that individuals who have access to a CIL value it greatly and that individuals who do not have access to a CIL decidedly want a CIL in their area. Therefore, the partners made the conscious decision to focus on building the State Plan. The SPIL Team includes the SILC and all of the CILs, and utilizes input from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), the DSE, and Division of Services for the Blind (DSB).

This Plan contains many important details on how the IL Network will work together over the three-year period. Below is a brief description of the contents of the plan by section.

Sections of the Plan

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities

In this section, you will find the outline of the overall goals and objectives that the Arkansas IL Network will be working to complete over the course of this three-year period, including the evaluation plan, and financial resources anticipated to be available for the IL Network's work. This section is important because it creates the roadmap of how we will work to make progress in achieving the overall mission of the Plan.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangement of Services

In this section, you will find information on the services that will be provided by the IL Network, the outreach plan, and the plan for coordination with other programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities. Important contents in the section include the targeted outreach to unserved and underserved populations that have been defined by the IL Network, as well as the partnership and collaborative efforts that the IL Network will continue to grow and expand.

Section 3: Network of Centers

In this section, you will find information on the existing network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and the details on any expansion or adjustment of the Network. From this section you can find the information on where each CIL is operating, the funding needs of the IL Network, and plans for changes and increases in funds for the IL Program.

Section 4: Designated State Entity (DSE)

In this section, you will find information on how the DSE will administer the financial and administrative functions required, including the grant and disbursement, and oversight process. This section outlines how Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will maintain its role as the DSE for the IL Program.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

In this section, you will find information on the establishment and operations of the SILC, including information on the SILC Resource Plan. This section outlines how the Arkansas SILC will remain autonomous and continue to perform the required duties and engage in the granted authorities of the SILC.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

In this section, you will find the information on the DSE, SILC, and the CILs that are eligible to sign this Plan. You will also find the certification that the SILC is authorized to submit this Plan, the SILC and CILs are legally authorized to carry out all provisions of the Plan, and the DSE has authorization to carry out the applicable administration of the Plan.

Section 7: DSE Assurances

In this section, you will find the DSE designee's signature agreeing for the Agency to serve as the DSE and to comply with the Assurances.

Section 8: SILC Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

In this section, you will find the SILC Chairperson signing and agreeing to the SILC's continued compliance with the Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance.

Section 9: Signatures

In this section, you will find the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the Directors of the Centers for Independent living agreeing to fully implement the Plan.

There are several partnerships that provide for the provision of Independent Living Services in Arkansas. Arkansans with disabilities serve as the lead of the consumer-controlled Independent Living services. The public input from Arkansans with disabilities and consumers of Independent Living services received through public hearings, town halls, surveys, and other means has been incorporated and serves as the foundation of this SPIL. Other partners in the development and implementation of the SPIL include the following:

- The Arkansas Network for Independent Living consists of four Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide direct services to Arkansans with disabilities and seniors in 25 counties.
- The Arkansas State Independent Living Council (SILC) provides for the development, monitoring, and the evaluation of the State Plan for Independent Living that establishes a framework and guides the Network's delivery of Independent Living services.
- The Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) serves as the Designated State Entity (DSE) for Arkansas and provides administration, training, technical assistance, budget support, and oversight of state and federal resources.
- Arkansas Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) provides independent living services to older individuals who are blind.

Background

Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (the Act), establishes the Independent Living Services and Centers for Independent Living programs. The purpose is to:

- Promote the independent living philosophy, based on consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access and individual and systems advocacy;
- Maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities; and
- Promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

The Independent Living Services Program, funded under Part B of Chapter 1 of the Act, makes available financial assistance to Arkansas for providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living services. The program also provides for the:

- Development and support of the network of CILs;
- Improvements in working relationships between the SILC, the CILs, and the DSE in each state; and
- Collaboration among the Independent Living services program, the CILs, and other programs that address the needs of individuals with significant disabilities.

To be eligible to receive Part B and Part C funding, a state needs to submit an approvable three-year SPIL to the Administration for Community Living / Independent Living Administration (ACL/OILP). The Arkansas SILC is responsible for developing the SPIL after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities throughout the state. While the development of the SPIL is a SILC duty, the SILC and CIL directors should be partners in the development process. The SPIL should serve as a blueprint for the Independent Living Network in Arkansas. The SPIL must be signed by the Arkansas SILC Chairperson, acting on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, not less than 51 percent of the CIL directors in Arkansas, the Commissioner of Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), and the Director of Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) before submission to ACL/OILP.

SPIL Development and Implementation

The SPIL encompasses the activities planned by the Arkansas Independent Living Network to achieve specified independent living objectives and reflects the State's commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan. The SPIL must identify the DSE, and the DSE must sign the plan indicating agreement that it will serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704 (c) of the Act including complying with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL.

The SILC prepares, in conjunction with the DSE, a plan for the provision of resources as may be necessary and sufficient to carry out the functions of the SILC (Sec 704(e)(1); 45 CFR 1329.15(c)).

The ARSILC is primarily funded with Innovation and Expansion funds, Sec 101 (a)(18) of the Act.

States are required to gather public input prior to submission and on any revisions to the approved state plan before drafting the SPIL. The public input requirement may be met by methods and technologies of all types but must meet the requirements of 1329.17(f)(2).

The SPIL consists of narrative sections describing the Independent Living objectives, services, activities, and operational details as well as a series of assurances, or statements of compliance, based on legal and regulatory provisions governing the Independent Living Services and CIL programs.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL:

The mission of the AR IL network and this SPIL is to provide services that support and empower people with disabilities to live as independently as possible within their communities of choice.

1.2 Goals of the Independent Living Network for the three-year period of the plan:

- Goal 1—Advocacy: Arkansans with disabilities receive necessary supports and services to become more independent.
- Goal 2—Community Integration: Individuals with disabilities receive the community integration and community-based living supports needed to be more independent.
- Goal 3—Network Capacity and Sustainability: The Independent Living Network operates effectively, is adequately funded, and has the capacity to expand.
- Goal 4—Monitor and Evaluate: The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) successfully implements, monitors and evaluates the SPIL.

1.3 Objectives

Objective 1.1—Arkansans with disabilities will be given the opportunity to achieve their identified goals in maximizing and increasing their independence in the community.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of IWD will learn how to write personal goals and independent living plans;
- Number of Peer Support Groups, activities and/or events;
- Number of Advocacy activities related to civil rights and inclusion; and
- Number of Advocacy activities related to voting rights including accessible polls among IWD.

Scope: CIL service area, statewide for the SILC and IL network

Target Performance Levels 2023: 600 IWD achieved writing personal goals and independent living plans over three years; over 75 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services over three years. 80 Peer Support activities provided over three years; 600 IWD provided training on civil rights, and inclusion; 30 events over three years promoting voting rights.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 200 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans; 20 advocacy activities on affordable and accessible housing; 25 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services for consumers.
- FY22: 200 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans; 30 advocacy activities on affordable and accessible housing; 25 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services for consumers.
- FY23: 200 IWD provided training on writing goals and independent living plans; 30 advocacy activities on accessible housing; 25 activities to increase awareness of consumer-directed services for consumers.

Activities:

- Provide IWD education and training on writing personal goals and independent living plans. Documented through sign in sheets at CIL offices and captured in the Annual Performance Report.

- Provide 1000 hours of independent living training and education to IWD and the community.
- Host quarterly events addressing personal/civil and/or voting rights in CIL service area and statewide on a yearly basis. Documented through sign in sheets and monthly reports.
- Provide 144 Peer Support activities and events per year (48 each year).
- Establish a Youth Peer Support Program.
- 50% of Peer Support Programs will be offered on-line through secure networks.
- The establishment of 12 youth leadership scholarships.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Disability Rights of Arkansas, The Arc of Arkansas, Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities, Arkansas Homeless Coalition

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 1.2— Emergency Preparedness: State and local emergency officials include individuals with disabilities in their emergency planning processes to include language for Pandemics.

Measureable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities at the state level;
- Number of advocacy activities at the local level;
- Number of activities to increase awareness in the disability community;
- Hold 12 events to develop individualized emergency plans for IWD; and
- Work to ensure ESF-6 addresses disability and the Disability Community.

Scope: Statewide, CIL services areas

Target Performance Levels for FY 2023:

Target Progress Levels for FY 21-23:

- FY21: One advocacy activity at the state level; ten advocacy activities at the local level; four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- FY22: One advocacy activity at the state level; ten advocacy activities at the local level; four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.
- FY23: One advocacy activity at the state level; ten advocacy activities at the local level; four advocacy activities to increase awareness in the disability community.

Activities:

- Increase awareness in the disability community on emergency preparedness; foster opportunities for tools and techniques for communicating with individuals with disabilities before and during disasters/emergencies.
- Work with legislators to expand the 211 throughout the state.
- Advocate at the state and local level to require individuals with disabilities to be included in disability planning.
- Host a statewide emergency preparedness summit to educate IWD, families and stakeholders on preparing for emergencies in our state.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas State Independent Living Council, IL Network

Potential Partners: 211, Area Agencies on Aging, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Red Cross, Arkansas Division of Emergency Management, Arkansas Disability Task Force on Emergency Management, Arkansas Governor's Commission on People with Disabilities, local Offices of Emergency Management, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 1.3—Transportation: Individuals with disabilities advocate for and utilize accessible public and private transportation.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities with the Arkansas Legislature on policy changes;
- Number of people trained as advocates for accessible transportation;
- Number of advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; and
- Number of transportation summits or trainings held.

Scope: Statewide, CIL service areas

Target Performance Levels for 2023: Fifteen advocacy activities with Arkansas Legislature on policy changes over three years; 30 advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation over three years; 60 IWD trained as advocates for accessible transportation over three years; one transportation summit held or included in the SILC's cross-disability conference year one and year three.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes; ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation; 20 IWD trained as advocates for accessible transportation; one transportation summit held in conjunction with cross-disability conference.
- FY22: Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes; ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation.

- FY23: Five advocacy activities with the local and state officials on policy changes; ten advocacy activities for expanded accessible transportation. 20 IWD trained as advocates for accessible transportation; one transportation summit held in conjunction with cross-disability conference.

Activities:

- Advocate for accessible transportation at the local and state level on specific recommendations for policy changes.
- Train IWD and general public to be transportation advocates.
- Advocate for expansion of accessible transportation.
- Advocate for additional Center for Independent Living activities with local transportation planning committee or board.

Lead Organizations: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Arkansas Council on Developmental Disabilities, Arkansas Department of Transportation, Rock Region Metro, Governor’s Commission on People with Disabilities, Regional Transportation Planning Commissions, National Federation of the Blind; Arkansas Association for the Deaf

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 1.4—Housing: Individuals with disabilities have access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing within the community of their choice.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of advocacy activities for accessible housing;
- Number of universal design and universal communication access awareness activities provided to businesses, housing providers, and developers; and
- Number of housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Scope: Statewide; local

Target Performance Levels for 2023: 36 advocacy activities for accessible housing; nine universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability* activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; ten housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities. All over three-year period.

(*Visitability Standard is the design approach for new housing.)

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing; four universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; five housing

coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

- FY22: 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing; four universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; five housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- FY23: 12 advocacy activities for accessible housing; four universal design and universal communication access awareness and visitability activities provided to businesses, housing providers, developers, associations, and local governments; five housing coalitions/partnerships created toward increasing housing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Activities:

- Advocate for accessible housing.
- Create awareness of housing accessibility issues to businesses, housing providers, developers, etc.
- Create additional housing coalitions that work toward increasing housing opportunities.
- Conduct workshops on availability of affordable housing options to IWD.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Veterans Administration; Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities, Metropolitan Housing Alliance, Area Agencies on Aging, Arkansas Association of Builders, Arkansas Apartment Association, Easter Seals of Arkansas, Disability of Rights Arkansas, local governments

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds

Objective 2.1—Youth Transition: Youth with disabilities access and utilize transition services provided by Centers for Independent Living and other providers.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach contacts to school systems regarding Centers for Independent Living roles and resources;
- Number of outreach activities to youth, populations, or races; and
- Increase in youth with disabilities opportunities to network and influence the community.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2023: 48 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living or outreach to education service centers; 120 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races. All over three year period.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers; 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races, four youth scholarships awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.
- FY22: 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers; 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races, four youth scholarships awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.
- FY23: 16 outreach activities to school systems regarding Center for Independent Living outreach to education service centers; 40 outreach activities to youth in underserved counties, populations, or races; four youth scholarships awarded to promote inclusion, diversity, and disability issues.

Activities:

- Reach out to school systems/districts or reach out to education service centers.
- Attend Transition fairs or education trainings.
- Make connections with transition specialists at regional education service centers and at local schools.
- Target outreach activities to youth with disabilities in underserved counties, populations, races.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living; Arkansas State Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Arkansas Department of Education, local school districts, Education Service Centers, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, 45 the Arc of Arkansas, Special Olympics, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Arkansas School for the Blind, Arkansas Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Disability Rights Arkansas, Advocates for Children & Family

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds; Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 2.2—Integration: Individuals with disabilities who are homeless, residing in institutions or nursing homes are aware of services provided by Centers for Independent Living.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach and/or resources to nursing facilities, institutions (jails, rehabilitation facilities);
- Number of individuals provided with resources regarding housing options, services and TBRA;
- Work with the local Housing Authorities to increase accessible and affordable housing capacity; and
- Number of coordination efforts with outside entities such as Ombudsmen, managed care organizations, etc.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY21-23: 36 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 45 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- FY22: 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.
- FY23: 12 outreach activities to nursing facilities, institutions; 15 coordination efforts with outside entities on relocation issues.

Activities:

- Conduct outreach/resources activities to nursing facilities, institutions and re-entry programs.
- Coordinate with managed care organizations on relocation activities.
- Conduct outreach/resource activities that include the homeless population in service areas.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Arkansas Health and Human Services, Arkansas Homeless Coalition, Governor's Re-entry Coalition, Arkansas Better Dads

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 2.3—Inclusion: Individuals with disabilities who are at risk for entering institutions or nursing homes are informed of and have access to programs and services provided by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of outreach activities to those typically underserved;
- Number of education opportunities for parents and consumers on accessing Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services; and
- Number of advocacy activities to increase the number of community-based services.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2023: 90 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and youth; 90 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiver services, subsidized housing and other state funded services. Over three years.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and youth; 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- FY22: 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and youth; 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.
- FY23: 30 outreach activities to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health concerns, substance use disorders, and youth; 30 education opportunities for parents or IWD on accessing waiting lists for Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports or waiver services.

Activities:

- Provide education for parents and students with disabilities on accessing state home-based services and supports through Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports.
- Advocate for additional community-based services.
- Reaching out to those typically underserved such as those with age-related disabilities, mental health, health concerns, substance use disorders and those re-entering the community from the justice system.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Arkansas Health and Human Services Arkansas Medical Board, National Association of Mental Health, Re-Entry Coalition, Arkansas State Police

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 3.1—Independent Living Transition: The Network of Centers for Independent Living has adequate resources and capacity to provide Independent Living Services for Arkansans with disabilities within their service area.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of funding sources secured to assist in providing Independent Living Services in the community;
- Technical assistance requested and provided to appropriate parties; and
- Number of community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for 2023: Three new funding applications submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate

parties; 288 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living. Over three years.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: One new funding application submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- FY22: One new funding application submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; technical assistance provided to appropriate parties; 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.
- FY23: One new funding application submitted to help provide Independent Living Services in the community; 96 community awareness activities by Centers for Independent Living.

Activities:

- Centers for Independent Living will seek public and private funding to support their efforts to provide Independent Living Services in their communities.
- Coordinate appropriate technical assistance for the Independent Living Services program outsourcing process.
- Conduct community awareness events promoting Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Services and philosophy of choice/consumer direction.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Independent Living Service Network

Potential Partners: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, Arkansas School for the Deaf, Arkansas School for the Blind, Administration on Community Living

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 3.2—Coordinating Funding for the Network: The Network of Centers for Independent Living receives funding to provide current, additional, and expanded services to underserved and unserved areas of Arkansas.

Measurable Indicators:

- Number of virtual services provided by Centers for Independent Living;
- Number of community partners/funders assisting the Center for Independent Living to provide virtual services to consumers; and
- Number of requests/contacts to utilize community space or partner with other entity to use space to provide services.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY2023: Six advocacy activities targeted to the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include secure state-funded Center for

Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; 15 activities conducted in an effort to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers; 30 outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: Two advocacy activities targeted to the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; five activities conducted in an effort to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers; ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.
- FY22: Two advocacy activities targeted to the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; five activities conducted in an effort to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers; ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.
- FY23: Two advocacy activities targeted to the Arkansas Legislature or Arkansas Department of Human Services to include secure state-funded Center for Independent Living funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills; five activities conducted in an effort to increase remote/virtual service options for Centers; ten outreach contacts to community partners to use office space or locations on a regular basis.

Activities:

- Advocate for more secure funding stream at the state level by including Center for Independent Living base funding in statute or biennial appropriations bills.
- Encourage mobile services for Centers or other virtual ways of providing services (mobile outreach station).
- Outreach to community partners to use office space or alternative locations.
- Obtain feedback from individuals with disabilities on the use of Part B dollars in Arkansas by surveying consumers through public forums, town halls, public comment sessions, workshops, etc.

Lead Organizations: Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas State Independent Living Council

Potential Partners: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, The Center for Exceptional Families, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Workforce Centers, other available public facilities

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

Objective 4.1—Reporting Consistency/Information Shared to Policymakers: The Independent Living Network reports accurate and consistent outcomes-based information to policymakers, grantors, and decision-makers.

Measurable Indicators:

- Annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary posted;

- Number of success stories/impact of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes publicly shared; and
- 100% Participation of Council members in the awareness of SILC business and functions over three years.

Scope: Statewide

Target Performance Levels for FY2023: Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 75 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; 30 outreach activities to the Arkansas Legislature or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100 percent providing annual Program Performance Reports/704 Reports (or other federally required reports) to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council over three years.

Target Progress for FY21-23:

- FY21: Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 25 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; ten outreach activities to the Arkansas Legislature or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100% providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; 100% SILC board participation in trainings and leadership development. 120 individuals with disabilities will participate in the SILC cross-disability conference and/or Day at the Capitol collectively.
- FY22: Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 25 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; ten outreach activities to the Arkansas Legislature or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100% providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; 100% SILC board participation in trainings and leadership development.
- FY23: Provide annual State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summary on website; 25 highlights of success stories and impacts of State Plan for Independent Living outcomes by Centers for Independent Living and the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; ten outreach activities to the Arkansas Legislature or state and federal agencies on the success of Center for Independent Living and Independent Living Services; 100% providing annual Program Performance Report/704 Report (or other federally required reports) to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council; 100% SILC board participation in trainings and leadership development; 175 individuals with disabilities will participate in the SILC cross-disability conference and/or Day at the Capitol collectively.

Activities:

- Provide State Plan for Independent Living evaluation summaries on the SILC website and social media.
- Highlight and share success stories from Center for Independent Livings/agency programs and highlight specific impacts of outcomes on a regular basis—newsletters, Arkansas State Independent Living Council website, CIL websites and social media push.
- Increase IWD participation and attendance at the SILC’s cross-disability conference and/or Day at the Capitol by 30%.
- Provide outreach to local and state officials and federal agencies including Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, Arkansas Division of Workforce Services; Administration on Community Living) on success of Centers for Independent Living and Independent Living Services on a quarterly basis.
- Provide training to SILC board members on the independent living philosophy and leadership development.

Lead Organizations: Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living

Potential Partners: Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, Division of Services for the Blind, Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities, Disability Rights Arkansas

Funding Sources: State General Revenue, I&E funds, Title VII Part B, Title VII Part C, Program funds, Unrestricted funds

1.4 Evaluation: Methods and processes the SILC will use to evaluate the implementation of the SPIL including timelines and evaluation of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council (SILC) will use a three-tiered approach in providing evaluation and analysis of the implementation of State Plan for Independent Living:

Progress on Objectives in the Plan

The evaluation of the progress on the evaluation and implementation of the State Plan will be performed by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council on a quarterly basis. This will enable the SILC to compile the yearly report and to report on the progress. The evaluation report will be disseminated 60 days after the end of the quarter. A summary of the progress on implementation and evaluation of the plan will be included in the Arkansas State Independent Living Council’s PPR report and a summary will be posted on the Arkansas State Independent Living Council’s website and Facebook page for review by the public.

Evaluation findings will be used to discuss needed improvements and possible revisions to objectives, targets, or indicators. Information and data will be evaluated for each objective, its corresponding activities and indicators as appropriate as it is received from State Plan for Independent Living partners in the Independent Living Network. The Centers for Independent Living will submit reports to the SILC on a quarterly basis to allow for sufficient and necessary monitoring of the SPIL.

The SPIL committee will meet after each quarter to review the plan and the evaluation report compiled by the SILC.

Implementation of the Plan

The evaluation of the implementation of the State Plan will be performed by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council staff and reported to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living on a quarterly basis. An annual report summary will be included in the Arkansas State Independent Living Council’s annual Program Performance Report/704 and will be posted on the Arkansas State Independent Living Council website for review by the public. Evaluation findings will be used to discuss needed improvements, revisions, or changes to the State Plan. Information and data on participation, resources, and activities underway will be collected from State Plan for Independent Living partners in the Independent Living Network.

Consumer Satisfaction Plan

Consumer satisfaction measures input from consumers about benefits received from provider services. The evaluation of consumer satisfaction on a statewide basis will be conducted by the Arkansas State Independent Living Council based on receipt of evaluations conducted by the Centers for Independent Living Network. The data will be collected by using an online platform. Consumer satisfaction data will be collected as often as needed by the centers for independent living. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, as the Designated State Entity, have worked with the Centers for Independent Living to include a standard set of questions within their own consumer satisfaction tools to ensure continuity of data across the Network for this purpose.

“Each provider may develop its own survey instrument and procedure. However, at a minimum, the survey instrument must use a Likert scale and include the following statements:

- *I was treated in a friendly, caring and respectful manner by the staff of [insert provider name].*
- *Services were provided in a timely manner.*
- *The services met my needs.*
- *I was satisfied with the services provided.*

	<i>Likert Scale</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Strongly disagree</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Disagree</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Neither agree or disagree</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Agree</i>
<i>5</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>

All consumers, both successful and unsuccessful, must be given the opportunity to respond.

The provider must calculate an average consumer rating on the Likert scale for each of the four required statements.”

The data and conclusions regarding consumer satisfaction will be reported in the aggregate to the Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity. A summary of the conclusions and findings will be posted online via the Arkansas State Independent Living Council website for viewing by the public. No information will be reported on a per Center basis. The purpose of this reporting is to gather a statewide view of the overall satisfaction of services, not the monitoring of individual Centers for Independent Living. The findings will be used to make recommendations for service delivery improvements.

Statewide Needs Assessment

In year two of this plan, the State Plan Committee will create a workgroup to assist in collecting the data for a Statewide Needs Assessment Survey. The survey will be combined with relevant data and information that will be utilized in the development of the following State Plan for Independent Living. The survey will be distributed to the public prior to year three of this plan. The SILC and CILs will solicit for vendors in a competitive process to conduct the survey. This survey shall be agreed on and the financial responsibility of all parties.

Financial Plan: Fiscal Years: 2021-2023 – Estimates

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	Independent Living Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)	0	\$40,713	\$298,564		0
Chapter 1, Part C			\$973,813		
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$142,883				
Social Security Reimbursement (I&E Funds)					
Other Federal Funds (SSBG Grant)		\$582,140			
CARES ACT Funding			\$941,295		
Total Federal Funds					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds: General Revenue/State Match	\$38,671				
Total Funding	\$181,554	\$622,853	\$2,213,672		0

Projected Funding by Agency/Center

Sources	DSB	Mainstream	SAILS	Southeast	Sources
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B (including state match)	\$40,713	\$29,868	\$ 106,815	\$ 66,290	\$ 95,591
Chapter 1, Part C		\$385,849	\$ 195,988	\$ 195,988	\$195,988
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)					
Social Security Reimbursement (I&E Funds)					
Other Federal Funds (SSBG Grant)					
CARES ACT Funding	\$ 0	\$372,964	\$ 189,445	\$ 189,444	\$ 189,444
Total Federal Funds					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds: General Revenue/State Match					
Total Funding	\$40,713	\$788,681	\$492,247	\$451,722	\$481,023

Description of Financial Plan Narrative

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, the Designated State Entity, receives the federal and state funds and provides oversight and accounting. The Arkansas Independent Living Network consists of four Centers for Independent Living and is funded primarily from a combination of three funding sources: Title VII funds, both Part B and Part C; and Arkansas General Revenue Funds. Other funding sources, such as grants and donations, are also available to members of the Independent Living Network, but those funding sources and opportunities are not covered in this section.

Title VII Part B and Part C funding furthers the State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as the Designated State Entity receives Part B funds and uses Arkansas General Revenue funds to satisfy Arkansas' match requirement of ten percent to obtain the funding. The Designated State Entity has elected to not use the five percent of Part B funds for administrative cost. The majority of Part B funds support Independent Living Services program for the State of Arkansas and base operations for state-funded Centers for Independent Living that do not receive General Revenue Funding. Specifically,

State and federal funds are coordinated in order to provide Independent Living Services on a statewide basis.

Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) primarily funds the SILC. (More regarding the SILC and its Resource Plan may be found in Section 5).

CARES Act: The Centers for Independent Living Plan will use the CARES Act funding to expand their services through the use of technology, host a state wide conference on emergency preparedness, COVID-19 related supplies, salaries, wages and leave, and in accordance with guidance from ACL.

Mainstream: 55% in 2020 and 45% in 2021

Sources: 55% in 2020 and 45% in 2021

SAILS: 55% in 2020 and 45% in 2021

Southeast: 55% in 2020 and 45% in 2021

Contract Administration and Management

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services provides services to receive, deposit, and disburse state and federal funds allocated for the Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living's general operations and Independent Living Services program. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services provides administration, budget, and support services as a partner of the State Plan for Independent Living and follows generally accepted accounting procedures and satisfies the requirements of Title VII Designated State Entity requirements.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services awards contracts to service providers under the Independent Living Services Program to provide purchased services pursuant to Arkansas Procurement Laws. These service providers include Centers for Independent Living and other organizations or persons skilled in the delivery of Independent Living Services. Documentation obtained from the contract application and monitoring activities provide input that can be used to develop or improve the technical assistance and training opportunities offered to individual service providers. Contract managers and other Arkansas Rehabilitation Services staff members provide technical assistance, as needed, throughout the term of the contract. Technical assistance may include help to expand a service provider's capacity to provide a full range of independent living services.

Contract monitoring is the systematic review of a service provider's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract. The goal of contract monitoring is to protect the health and safety of consumers who receive services, to ensure delivery of quality goods and services, and to protect the financial interest of the state. Monitoring includes planned, ongoing, periodic, or unscheduled activities that cover financial, programmatic, and administrative components.

The Independent Living Services Program adheres to all applicable federal and state monitoring laws. In addition, federal law is incorporated in the monitoring process by following the federal Uniform Grant Guidelines and Rehabilitation Act.

The SILC and Centers of Independent Living have agreed if there are Part B funds left over at the end of each fiscal year that the funds will be distributed evenly between the CILS and the SILC. Any deviation from this agreement must be agreed upon between the SILC and the CILS. CILs and the older blind agency (DSB) may relinquish all or part of the funding and give their portion to the SILC.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services contracts with the Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living Services using Part B Funding.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services reallocates any unspent Part B funds to the SILC and the CILS through an amended contract amendment.

Any unexpended balance funds or roll over funds must be spent by the end of the next fiscal year within the biennium.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Services: Independent living services	Provided using Part B	Provided using other funds	Entity that provides (specify CIL, 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	CIL
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	No	Yes	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.	Yes	Yes	CIL
Rehabilitation technology	No	No	CIL/Other
Mobility training	No	No	CIL

2.1 Services: Independent living services	Provided using Part B	Provided using other funds	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	Yes	Yes	CIL
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	No	Other
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	Yes	Yes	CIL
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	CIL
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	Yes	CIL
2.1 Services: Independent living services	Provided using Part B	Provided using other funds	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Supported living Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	No	Yes	CIL
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems	Yes	Yes	CIL
Physical rehabilitation	No	No	Other
Therapeutic treatment	No	No	Other
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	No	No	Other
Individual and group social and recreational services	Yes	Yes	CIL
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	CIL
Services for children	No	No	Other
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	CIL
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future	Yes	Yes	CIL

2.1 Services: Independent living services	Provided using Part B	Provided using other funds	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	Yes	Yes	CIL
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	No	Yes	CIL

2.2 Outreach

Identify steps to be taken regarding statewide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs that are funded under Title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

Outreach outlines the activities identified to further the mission of the State Plan for Independent Living. The activities in this section address statewide outreach efforts and are to be separate from and coordinated with, but not replacing, the CILs outreach plans.

CILs will be encouraged to provide outreach to individuals residing in counties that document less than 3% of contribution to the PPR report (704) data of individuals served.

Targeted populations and/or geographic areas: All groups identified below as unserved/underserved live dispersed throughout Arkansas' 75 counties. The CILs each have their own outreach plans including but not limited to the Latino/Hispanic communities, Marshallese, and Black and Brown Communities.

This section addresses statewide outreach efforts and is separate from, not inclusive of or replacing, the CILs outreach plans.

Youth with Disabilities

A primary population that has been identified as underserved is the population of youth with disabilities. The SILC has identified the need for greater youth participation and development of future leaders. The CILs will facilitate listening sessions at local high schools, colleges and universities related to youth leaders and opportunities for youth living with disabilities.

Outreach to youth will also be conducted in partnership with ARS through the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) held annually. The forum allows the CILs to engage with high school students and helps to increase their leadership and advocacy skills. Through YLF, we can begin to identify more future leaders in Independent Living.

Homeless individuals with disabilities

The Homeless community has been identified as a population that includes individuals with

disabilities. The Network believes there are potential coordination and collaboration efforts through the Arkansas Homeless Coalition that can be expanded upon through targeted outreach.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community

The IL Network in Arkansas will continue to expand collaboration with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. In Northwest Arkansas, the independent living philosophy has increased among the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. These efforts are led by SOURCES independent living center located within the area. We will continue to collaborate with the Arkansas School for the Deaf, the Arkansas Association of the Deaf, and DHS-Division of Aging, Adult and Behavioral Health Services to increase outreach and collaboration to allow greater access to Independent Living Services for this community.

2.3 Coordination

A collaborative framework is in place to promote unity and singleness of purpose among the Arkansas State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services as the Designated State Entity, Division of Services for the Blind and other partners.

The SILC and Network of Centers will develop common outreach materials to be utilized on a statewide basis to better represent the IL Network as a cohesive Arkansas IL Program. This will include the common materials and tools to be developed to better assist the IL Network in engaging potential consumers, the community, stakeholders, and policymakers in the activities and mission of the IL Program.

The Arkansas IL Network strongly believes in the value of coordination and collaboration with programs that support community life for persons with disabilities. Each CIL will be able to coordinate with entities and partners in their local areas that further advance their CIL's strategic goals and objectives. The Arkansas SILC will continue to coordinate and build relationships with various statewide partners that provide services similar and complementary to Independent Living Services. Below are some ways that the SILC will work on coordination over the time period of this Plan. The below list is not all encompassing and new partners may be developed as opportunities arise.

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council composition includes a Center for Independent Living Representative as well as Ex-Officio members from Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind. Recruiting efforts are continuous and underway with the Governor's Office to include additional representation from other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council also coordinates with several agencies that are not appointed members of the SILC including but not limited to the Arkansas Department of Education and the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living also work with various entities, advisory councils, and non-profits such as the Arkansas Disability Policy Consortium, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights Arkansas, NAACP, Urban League, and the Arkansas Martin Luther King Commission. A

member of the Arkansas State Independent Living Council acts as a representative liaison to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC).

Activities related to Council meetings, interim workgroups, and shared priorities provide understanding of respective programs, collective support, and promotion of Independent Living Services statewide. The Arkansas State Independent Living Council invites all Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas to participate in State Plan for Independent Living activities. Activities defined for State Plan for Independent Living objectives cite a number of entities with whom coordination will be important to achieve progress on objectives.

The Arkansas Independent Living Services Program is provided via service providers, Arkansas Centers for Independent Living, through awarded state contracts that include terms and conditions and the opportunity for renewals. Coordination of services is a listed requirement during the development and review of the independent living plan or waived independent living plan. Services must be coordinated, to the extent possible, with all of the following programs for which the consumer may be eligible and from which the consumer may benefit.

ACL Partners

The Arkansas SILC will continue to work with the ACL funded programs across Arkansas. The intent is to continue the work of stronger coordination within the network. A strong working relationship with these groups will lead to a stronger unified disability community across Arkansas working together to promote independent living.

Additional Partners

The Arkansas SILC has membership from the following State Agencies: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and Division of Services for the Blind. These Ex-Officio Council members assist in creating collaboration and coordination opportunities within their agencies as well as opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The following list is representative of additional partners we will continue to work with on aligned work in improving the lives of individuals with disabilities in the community: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Division of Rural Services, Arkansas Association of Developmental Disabilities (AADD), Easter Seals, Arkansas Enterprise for the Developmentally Disabled (AEDD), Pathfinder, Inc., Metropolitan Housing Alliance, Partners for Inclusive Communities, PASSE (Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity), Arkansas Traumatic Brain Injury, and Arkansas Spinal Cord Commission.

As noted, this list does not include or encompass all partners. New partner will be developed over the course of this Plan. Coordination will also be considered in other relevant state plans for other programs by reviewing where alignment of goals exists.

Aging Populations

The Arkansas SILC will continue to work closely with Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS) and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) related to empowering seniors on their rights to live independently. The plan is to continue working more closely with these partners as the aging

population in Arkansas is becoming a larger demographic group across the state, and the rate of disability is higher in this group. Other than services, there is a great need to improve on the quality of life of all Arkansans through provider engagement and oversight that protects the vulnerable, fosters independence, and promotes better health through continuous, quality improvement.

Developmental Disabilities

The Arkansas SILC has a strong working relationship with the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. This relationship has led to partnerships that focus on advocacy and action in the DD & IDD community. The plan is to continue to expand on the work already completed under these efforts. The network will continue to work with Division of Developmental Disabilities Services to educate individuals and families on the choices that are available in living.

Mental Health

The Arkansas IL Network will continue to explore options that bridge mental health and addiction services to Independent Living. Over the last ten years, the Arkansas Centers for Independent Living have worked more in this area through the nursing home transition work. Over the course of this Plan, the network will work to expand efforts by collaborating with organizations who educate on mental health. DHS-Division of Adult, Aging and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS), provides an integrated system of public mental health care and alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and treatment services to Arkansas residents. The Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services provides the majority of direct mental health services throughout the State by contracting with 13 community mental health centers (CMHCs) and three specialty clinics.

Emergency Preparedness and Management

Arkansas State Independent Living Council and Centers for Independent Living will continue to collaborate with FEMA, local and state emergency management agencies and other disability organizations related to emergencies and disaster response.

In times of emergency, natural disasters and state pandemic hot spots resources may be allocated to increase CIL catchment areas to maximize the goals set forth in this State Plan. Additionally, Centers for Independent Living may conduct ongoing inclusive statewide emergency preparedness and disaster planning.

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Centers

The State of Arkansas contains diverse racial and disability populations in the vast rural and urban areas of the state. The Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas serve all disability and racial populations and adapt their programs and services to reflect the unique populations and needs in their service areas.

Centers for Independent Living are community organizations that, under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, serve cross-disability populations. Centers for Independent Living provide five core services (information and referral, individual and system advocacy, peer support, Independent Living skills training, and transition/relocation services from nursing homes and other institutions and diversion services that keep a person with a disability out of a nursing home or other institutions). Each Center for Independent Living's community needs define its service priorities. In addition to the Federally-required core services, Centers for Independent Living conduct resource development activities through grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to expand Independent Living Services. The Centers for Independent Living have established contracts with ARS to receive funds for services under the Independent Living

Services Program. ARS is responsible for administering and monitoring contracts with Centers for Independent Living to provide Independent Living services. Some of these additional services include counseling, orientation and mobility, recreation and socialization, rehabilitation technologies, and examinations. Other examples of community services that Arkansas Centers for Independent Living provide in addition to core services include but are not limited to: assistance with accessing benefit counseling and Social Security Work Incentives technical assistance programs, managing housing voucher programs, coordinating transportation services and mobility management to include travel training and identification and utilization of all transportation resources, operating assistive technology demonstration sites, providing various emergency preparedness technical assistance for people with disabilities, durable medical equipment loan programs and clothing closets, home modifications for accessibility, obtaining utility assistance, and service provider expos, working with local Workforce Services to establish a disability sub-committees to improve access of their services to job seekers with disabilities. The following alphabetical list contains the contact information; counties served, and base operating funding sources for the four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas.

There are four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas. The Centers provide the five core services in 25 of the 75 counties. Arkansas has no non-Part C Centers within the state. The Centers are:

- (1) Independent Living Resource Center, d.b.a. Mainstream
300 S Rodney Parham Rd # 5, Little Rock, AR 7220_
<http://www.mainstreamilrc.com>
(501) 280- 0012

Mainstream's service area covers five counties in central Arkansas – Pulaski, Perry, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie, and part of Saline County

Funding Sources: Subchapter C, Subchapter B

Oversight: Subchapter C – Administration for Community Living's oversight process;
State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds;
CARES ACT – Subchapter Part C (One-time Funding) Oversight – Administration for Community Living's oversight process

SPIL Signatory: Yes

- (2) Spa Area Independent Living Services (SAILS)
621 Albert Pike Rd #104, Hot Springs, AR 71913.
<http://www.ar-sails.org>
(501) 624-7710

SAILS covers five counties in the Southwest central region of the state – Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike, and the remainder of Saline County

Funding Sources: Subchapter C, Subchapter B

Oversight: Subchapter C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process;
State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds;
CARES ACT – Subchapter Part C (One-time Funding) Oversight – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

SPIL Signatory: Yes

- (3) Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Services
7300 Dollarway Rd, White Hall, AR 71602_
<http://www.ar-sails.org>
(870) 247-8600

SAILS Southeast Arkansas service area serves ten counties in southeast Arkansas Grant, Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley, and Chicot.

Funding Sources: Subchapter C, Subchapter B

Oversight: Subchapter C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process;
State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds;
CARES ACT – Subchapter Part C (One-time Funding) Oversight – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

SPIL signatory: Yes

- (4) Sources for Community IL Services (SOURCES)
1918 N Birch Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703_
<http://www.arsources.org>
(479) 442-5600

SOURCES service area covers four counties in the northwest corner of Arkansas – Benton, Carroll, Washington, and Madison.

Funding Sources: Subchapter C, Subchapter B

Oversight: Subchapter C – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process;
State Funds – DSE Oversight – See Section 4.3 Oversight Process of Part B funds;
CARES ACT – Subchapter Part C (One-time Funding) Oversight – Administration for Community Living’s oversight process

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

Underserved Counties

The Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living recognizes that all counties and areas currently served by a Center for Independent Living are underserved. There are 25 out of 75 Arkansas counties that receive the five federally mandated core services but are considered to be underserved. Underserved counties are counties within a Center’s service area where Independent Living services are provided but not to all Arkansans with disabilities residing in the service area. Although Center services encompass 25 counties, this represents two-thirds of the state’s population. There are a variety of reasons the counties remain underserved. Examples include inability to reach all Arkansans with disabilities in the county or limited resources and funding.

Due to the fact that there are only four Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas, the Independent Living needs in their service areas are greater than the resources and capacity available to them. Federal and State funding for the Arkansas Network has remained relatively stagnant despite increased mandates and additional requirements. The Centers for Independent Living have worked to diversify their funding sources and secure private sources of funding. Centers for Independent Living rely mainly on federal and state sources for their base funding. It is imperative for the 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. The fact remains that as long as the Network continues to be underfunded, the current Network’s service areas and populations will also continue to be underserved.

Expansion of the Network

Due to the lack of funds to support the Independent Living Program in Arkansas, the following counties are unable to access Core Services for all individuals with significant disabilities. For this reason, we have determined all of the following counties to be unserved at the start of this Plan. A majority of these counties identified are primarily rural counties of Arkansas.

The counties not served include:

Baxter	Cross	Johnson	Nevada	Searcy
Boone	Dallas	Lafayette	Newton	Sebastian
Calhoun	Franklin	Lawrence	Ouachita	Sevier
Clay	Fulton	Lee	Phillips	Sharp
Cleburne	Greene	Little River	Poinsett	Stone
Columbia	Hempstead	Logan	Polk	Union
Conway	Howard	Marion	Pope	Van Buren
Craighead	Independence	Miller	Randolph	White
Crawford	Izard	Mississippi	Saint Francis	Woodruff
Crittenden	Jackson	Monroe	Scott	Yell

Efforts to expand and strengthen the network of Centers for Independent Living in Arkansas involve working closely with state and federal entities toward the allocation of additional

funding for the establishment and operation of Centers for Independent Living. Should funding become available, a competitive process will be conducted, which will define criteria for selection. In addition, as stated above, the network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing network such as the reducing of the continuation funding of existing Centers for Independent Living in the Network. Priority will be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained, or are in the process of obtaining a 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt status because such applicants will be better positioned to initiate programming and deliver services more readily.

Priority Unserved or Underserved Area in the State

Fifty counties in Arkansas remain unserved. In adherence with federal guidance, if Part C funds become available over the threshold of establishing a new Center, the priority will be to establish a new Center for Independent Living in an unserved area. Priority should be given to applicants with a cross-disability board in place that have filed for incorporation and obtained or in a process of obtaining, 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt status because such applicants will be in a better position to initiate programming and services more readily. In addition, if additional funds from sources such as Part B, State General Revenue, or I&E funds become available, the Network supports efforts for the following activities: 1) to add currently unserved areas/counties to an existing Center for Independent Living's catchment area for purposes of providing the five core services; 2) To expand the capacity of Centers for Independent Living to reach underserved populations and regions within existing coverage areas. The Network will not accept expansion funds if it will potentially jeopardize the stability of the existing Network.

Order of Priority for Establishing New Centers for Independent Living in these Areas

Should funding become available to establish a new Center for Independent Living in an unserved area, the first priority of serving an unserved area of the state is to establish a Part C CIL. If a Part C grant is relinquished or terminated, a new CIL would be established in the closed grant's service area. The order of priority for establishing a new CIL includes a minimum annual funding level. The minimum funding level to establish a new CIL is \$250,000 of Part C funds, if that amount of Part C funds is available after ACL has provided a COLA and Part C funds to existing centers at the level of funding the centers received the previous year.

1. The first priority area for expansion of the IL network into unserved and underserved areas of the state is in Northeast Arkansas, serving the counties of Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden. The Mississippi Delta is an economically depressed area and includes a significant minority population and a significant number of individuals with disabilities according to the Maximus SSA Beneficiary Distribution Website. The major population concentration is in Jonesboro and the surrounding area in Craighead County. The homeless population in Craighead County has doubled in the past 5 years. A significant number of those individuals have disabilities. Mississippi County is the next most populated area, which borders Craighead County on the west and the Mississippi Delta on the east. When the State's allotment is sufficient to fund a new Part C center in this region, the center will serve Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden Counties.
2. The second priority is a center in the Southwest area serving the counties of Miller, Lafayette, Hempstead and Little River. Miller County includes the city of Texarkana, and is

the most populated county.

3. The third priority is a center in the North Central counties, serving the counties of White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, and Woodruff. White County includes the city of Searcy and is the most populated.

The expansion of Independent Living service offerings will follow a specific process. Information provided via Centers for Independent Living, community forums, and grassroots organizations establish the need for an additional Center for Independent Living. The feasibility determination process will consist of the following components: (1) compilation of data supporting the expansion; (2) formation of a committee charged with investigating the capacity of the community under consideration to support a new Center and the impact on existing Centers with contiguous service areas; (3) development of a community action plan to address deficiencies if expansion is recommended; (4) establishment of a satellite center if expansion is recommended under mentorship of an existing Center geographically located nearest the new service area; and (5) the satellite Center becomes independent upon development of funds necessary to fully support autonomy. Note that components (4) and (5) apply only to centers established with state or Part B funds since Part C has its own requirements for establishment of a new center.

When expansion of the IL network is not feasible, or recommended, the DSE and SILC in coordination with the existing Centers may:

4. Identify the unserved and underserved populations in the existing IL network catchment areas. Unserved and underserved populations may include, but are not limited to groups or populations of individuals with significant disabilities who:
 - a. Have physical, cognitive or sensory impairments
 - b. Are members of racial or ethnic minority groups in the catchment areas
 - c. Live in rural areas
 - d. Are elderly; or
 - e. Have been identified by the IL networks, the DSE or the SILC as unserved or underserved within a Center’s project area.

Methodology for distribution of funds for Centers for Independent Living

Each Center for Independent Living has been assigned a base funding amount as follows:

Population of IWD	Base Funding
1-75,000	\$250,000
75,001- 150,000	\$300,000
150,001 +	\$350,000

The funding levels were agreed upon by the Arkansas Centers for Independent Living.

Center	IWD Population	Funding
Mainstream	181,995	\$415,717
SAILS	69,903	\$302,803
SAILS (SE)	65,814	\$262,278
Sources	159,442	\$ 291,579

Service area populations were developed using data from the 2018 Arkansas American Community Survey population data and prevalence rates. Centers not at the base level in Subchapter C funds will be supplemented with Subchapter B dollars.

Until the minimum allotment of funds established in this plan are made available to the existing network of CILs, new Centers or expansion of areas will not be recognized in any funding distributions. Formula for Distribution of funds after Minimum Base Funds achieved Funding distribution charts and formulas will be updated annually based upon the Subchapter C funding allocations as well as the Subchapter B allocations to Arkansas. This formula represents the process that will be utilized to distribute funds to the Center for Independent Living. Due to the nature of funding changes annually, as long as the formula is utilized, revisions to the plan will not be needed.

Funding Reductions

Due to recent reductions, both planned and unplanned, the Independent Living Network encourages the development of contingency plans should there be a reduction or rescission of State or federal funds. If reductions take place, the Center for Independent Living Network is committed to providing the five core services to consumers in the Center’s catchment area to ensure their status as Center for Independent Living under Title VII, Part C is not jeopardized. It is recommended that the State expend Part B funding to replace reductions in Part C funding. Should State General Revenue funding for Centers for Independent Living be reduced, the Network of Centers should receive a proportional funding reduction rather than consider the closing of a Center. It is expected that any such reductions may impact the quantity and quality of services offered by a Center.

One-Time Funding

In the event of one-time state or federal funding becoming available to the IL Network in Arkansas, the determination on the distribution will be made as follows:

Special or Dedicated Purpose – If funds made available have a specified project or purpose, to the best extent possible, the funds will be distributed in accordance with state of federal recommendations and/or if not designated, competitively based upon Centers submitting a proposal that includes their ability to expend the funds for the dedicated purpose.

One-Time Federal Title VII Funding – If funds come to Arkansas that are deemed one-time and dedicated and not sustainable to fund a Center for Independent Living long-term, the funds will be distributed as best as possible in accordance with the Formula for Distribution in this section

of the Plan.

One-Time State funds – Depending on the nature of the state funds and any restrictions, the distribution will be following one of the two methods outlined above.

Closing of a Center for Independent Living

In the event that a Center funded by Title VII, Part C, should close, and ACL not have sufficient time to re-bid the Arkansas State Independent Living Council and the Network of Centers for Independent Living will coordinate on the distribution of funds previously allocated to the Center. Should such funds reach the threshold for the development of a new Center (\$250,000) a new Center will be developed in the previously mentioned priority area(s). Should the Part C dollars not reach the threshold the SILC and CIL's will determine the best use of available funds including but not limited to establishment of a satellite office, expansion of services in a current CIL's catchment area or distribution to current centers for the expansion of services.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) will serve as the entity in Arkansas 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. (Section 704(c) of the Act)

4.1 DSE Responsibilities

ARS, as the designated state entity (DSE) for Arkansas, agrees to the following responsibilities:

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. Shall not receive the 5% of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs one through four above.

4.2 Grant Process and Distribution of Funds

Process and Determination

The DSE, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, received Legislative permission through for the designation of IL and SILC funding to be labeled as non-discretionary funds based on the required federal SPIL. This designation allows the DSE to contract with the Centers for Independent Living Centers through agreed upon negotiated funding set out in the State Plan for Independent Living Council.

Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network. Any new funding, not set out in the SPIL,

would require the DSE to review the SPIL directives related to prioritization of funding, specifically as it related to serving an unserved area. The new funding may require to be administered through State contracting requirements of bidding.

Disbursement and Administration

ILC's Subchapter B and State funds will be allocated through annual contracts from the DSE. Prior to the start of the Federal Fiscal year, Centers are required to submit a proposal of Goals, Objectives and a Budget to the DSE based on the SPIL. Once approved, the ILC's are notified of their award amount and provided documents to review for signature, in accordance with the DSE standard contracting practices.

ILC's are required to submit monthly invoices with activity reports to the DSE for payment, along with quarterly financial reports. The DSE reviews the activity reports comparing to the ILC proposals and the SPIL activities. After review payment documents are processed through the DSE financial department for review and payment processing through the Department of Finance, Administrative Statewide Information System (AASIS), then payment will be made to the Centers.

Process and Determination

Current Centers eligible for funding will receive contracts in amounts consistent with the funding distribution outlined in Section 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network.

If a new award to a Center were to be needed to serve an unserved area, a competitive process will be utilized as appropriate.

4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process that is to be followed by the DSE

Contract monitoring is the systematic review of a service provider's records, business processes, deliverables, and activities to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract. The goal of contract monitoring is to protect the health and safety of clients that receive services, ensure delivery of quality goods and services, and protect the financial interest of the state. Monitoring includes planned, ongoing, periodic, or unscheduled activities that cover financial, programmatic, and administrative components.

4.4 Administration and Staffing

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE

ARS, as the DSE, currently does not appropriate any Part B funds or other Independent Living funds for administration or staffing of ARS staff.

4.5 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 DSE will monitor SILC operations to ensure compliance with the state imposed requirements for the SILC as outlined in Executive Order 07-12, which established the SILC and the membership makeup, requirements, and functions.

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 ARSILC is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation with a governor appointed Board of Directors. The ARSILC is placed administratively outside the government structure. The ARSILC is physically located autonomously from any State government buildings. A clause has been developed to add to the contract to insure that the DSE will not include conditions or requirements in the ARSILC resource plan that would compromise the independence of the SILC.

The ARSILC obtained Articles of Incorporation on November 21, 1994 and gained status as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation on February 2, 1995. Executive Order EO 07-12 ratified the establishment of the State Independent Living Council under Governor Mike Beebe in 2007.

The ARSILC collaborates with the Governor’s Office on boards and Commissions as it relates to vacancies and new positions of the AARSILC Board of Directors. The Governor appoints the Board of Directors including the ex-officio members.

The SILC has set these goals:

- Develop a comprehensive, three-year plan that will structure the provision and expansion of Independent Living services in Arkansas;
- Monitor the ongoing implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living;
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the current State Plan for Independent Living;
- Increase funding and resources for the provision of Independent Living services in the

state;

- Improve public awareness and understanding regarding the Independent Living movement and issues related to disability;
- Provide technical assistance and training for both public and private entities in order that they might better assist persons with disabilities in achieving their Independent Living goals; and
- Assist in the development of public policy that promotes systemic change toward the successful integration of people with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

The Arkansas SILC has established fiscal policies and procedures that govern the expenditure of funds. Proper use of fiscal resources will be routinely monitored by Arkansas Rehabilitation Services. The Arkansas SILC remains aware of and safeguards its independence. The entity operates under the Council’s direction with established management, policies and procedures, and in its independent office location. Nothing in the resource plan jeopardizes its autonomy. Furthermore, the resource plan reflects prudent planning for operational needs while taking into account full use of available resources. The SILC employs an Executive Director who reports to the Board of Directors and one staff member that is supervised and reports to the Executive Director.

5.2 SILC Resource Plan

FISCAL YEAR 2021 Section 101(a)(18) I&E		FISCAL YEAR 2022 Section 101(a)(18) I&E		FISCAL YEAR 2023 Section 101(a)(18) I&E	
Federal	\$142,883	Federal	\$142,883	Federal	\$142,883
State	\$38,671	State	\$38,671	State	\$38,671
TOTAL	\$181,554	TOTAL	\$181,554	TOTAL	\$181,554
Percentage Breakdown		Percentage Breakdown		Percentage Breakdown	
ARS 87%	\$157,665	ARS 87%	\$157,665	ARS 87%	\$157,665
DSB 13%	\$23,889	DSB 13%	\$23,889	DSB 13%	\$23,889
TOTAL	\$181,554	TOTAL	\$181,554	TOTAL	\$181,554

*Part B amounts in the SILC Resource Plan are estimates only based on historical amounts. SILC and CILS have agreed to divide any additional funds over the grant forecasted amount equally.

Process used to Develop the Resource Plan

The process used to develop the SILC Resource Plan centers on the authorities and duties required by federal and state law and the resources necessary and sufficient to satisfy its obligations. The SILC chairperson and the Board of Directors will collaborate with the DSE to reach an agreement related to the SILC Resource Plan.

SILC business meetings, active and frequent engagement with the Network and Centers for Independent Living, and seeking feedback from the Arkansas disability community provide guidance on the resources needed for the SILC to fulfill its mission. Meetings with the Independent Living Network and supporting partners, SPIL Development Workgroup meetings, and engagement with ARS yield that the SILC funding amount would remain stagnant but

diversified in terms of funding source.

The SILC resource plan includes but is not limited to the following:

- Staff/personnel
- Operating expenses
- Council compensation and expenses
- Meeting expenses, including public hearing expenses, such as meeting space, alternate formats,
- 508 compliant website and electronic documents and enhancements based on current trends, interpreters, and other accommodations to include IT equipment for board members related to the recent changes to how we must conduct business
- IT services
- Resources to attend and/or secure training for staff and Council members
- Resource library to include 508 compliant resources and literature
- Other costs as appropriate.

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

The SILC Executive Director and the SILC chairperson shall negotiate the amount of the Resource Plan with the DSE Commissioner and the Director of the Division of Services for the Blind. An agreement for the SILC Resource Plan shall be approved by the full Board of Directors. Subject to the approval of the Board, the SILC Executive Director will use current expenses and projected amounts to demonstrate the amount of resources “necessary and sufficient” for the SILC to carry out its duties and authorities.

Funding for the SILC, as reflected in the Resource Plan, will be disbursed according to an annual contract between the SILC and the DSE. In order to finalize this contract, the SILC will submit to the DSE a proposal of goals, objectives, and an annual budget consistent with the Resource Plan. This contract will be reviewed and approved according to standard procurement and contracting practices of the DSE. The SILC will submit monthly invoices with activity reports to the DSE for payment under the contract. Payment documents will be processed by the DSE’s financial department, with funds disbursed to the SILC through the Administrative Statewide Information System.

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 SILC 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

N/A

SILC Authorities:

- The ARSILC intends to conduct activities under the new authorities provided for in the Act as follows:
- Conduct advocacy activities to ensure state policies and services are in place which ensures all Arkansans are valued equally and participate fully in their communities.
- Develop and implement a resource development plan to support the activities of the SILC.
- Collaborate with the CILs on resource development to expand capacity of current CILs and to establish new CILs.
- Conduct leadership development activities for current and potential SILC members.
- Conduct outreach to and leadership development activities for youth with disabilities.
- Educate SILC members and staff on topics determined by the executive committee which may include new federal guidance, FAQs, and regulations as well as other topics of interest.

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL

The Arkansas SILC is led by a fifteen-member Council of who majorities identify as an individual with a disability and appointed by the Governor. Two of the fifteen are Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the Governor. The Ex-Officio members represent the DSE; Arkansas Rehabilitation Services and the state agency serving the older blind; Division of Services for the Blind. Arkansas SILC bylaws, policy and procedures, and the State Plan echo federal law regarding SILC member composition.

The State will continue to maintain the SILC as it has done in the past. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services will continue to provide Innovation and Expansion funding and support to ensure the SILC is operating and maintained over the course of the SPIL. The SILC will continue to develop its own budget and will operate with autonomy to fulfill the duties and elected authorities. The SILC Resource Plan will also include applicable amount of unexpended Part B. This will be an amount agreed upon by the SILC and CILs to split evenly between each. A center or the older blind agency can if they so choose, relinquish their part of the unexpended Part B to go to the SILC. Each fiscal year, the SILC and the DSE will communicate related to the SILC Resource plan. This information will be shared with the CILs.

Appointments to the SILC will continue to be made by the Governor, from nominations provided by the SILC. The SILC will continue to solicit applications statewide, review all applications received considering experience and expertise, un-represented and under-represented areas of the state, and diversity. Nominations 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 SILC. Nominations and supporting documents will then be shared and reviewed with staff in the Governor's Office responsible for processing appointments. SILC staff will continue to maintain

records of appointments and term limits and periodically review them with the Governor's staff to ensure term records match and term limits are enforced. The SILC Chair is elected by the voting members of the Council, from among the voting members of the Council. A Chair may serve two three year terms consecutively. SILC vacancies are filled by individuals nominated, and appointed, to serve the remainder of the vacant term. The SILC will continue to recruit individuals and maintain a pool of interested parties when a vacancy becomes available.

Section 6: Legal Basis and 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 Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS). Authorized representative of the DSE Joseph Baxter Title Commissioner.

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 Arkansas State 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:

Independent Living Resource Center, d.b.a. Mainstream
SAILS-Spa Are Independent Living Services
SAILS Southeast Arkansas

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

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

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

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Commissioner Joseph Baxter acting on behalf of the DSE—**Arkansas Rehabilitation Services** (ARS) located at One Commerce Way, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202, (501) 296-1614 email: Joseph.Baxter@Arkansas.gov.

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. 1693-1693r).

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.

Name and Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Signature

Date

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

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

8.1 Assurances

Chairperson Mahdee Raiees-Dana, acting on behalf of the Arkansas State Independent Living Council (SILC), located at 10 Corporate Hill Drive Suite 240 Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 (501-372-0607 email:Arkansasilc@gmail.com) (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 resource plan includes:
- a. Sufficient funds received from:
 - i. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18) as applicable;
 - ii. The ARSILC will receive a portion of the Part B funds if there are funds left at the end of each fiscal year. The amounts included in the resource plan are estimates based on the historical data and the NOA receive from ACL. 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. 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 including braille, interpreters, and other accommodations; 508 compliance
 - 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:

Mahdee Raiees-Dana

Name of SILC Chairperson

Signature

Date

Electronic signature may be used for the purposes of submission, but 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 Arkansas 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, 2020.

_____ Signature of SILC Chairperson	_____ Date
--	---------------

Mahdee Raiees-Dana _____ Name of SILC Chairperson	
--	--

Independent Living Resource Center, Inc., dba Mainstream _____ Name of Center for Independent Living (CIL)	
--	--

_____ Signature of CIL Director	_____ Date
------------------------------------	---------------

Rita Byers _____ Name of CIL Director	
--	--

Spa Are Independent Living Services (SAILS) _____ Name of Center for Independent Living (CIL)	
---	--

_____ Signature of CIL Director	_____ Date
------------------------------------	---------------

Brenda Stinebuck _____ Name of CIL Director	
--	--

Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Services (SAILS Southeast) _____ Name of Center for Independent Living (CIL)	
--	--

_____ Signature of CIL Director	_____ Date
------------------------------------	---------------

Brenda Stinebuck _____ Name of CIL Director	
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Electronic signatures may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

APPENDIX A: Arkansas State Independent Living Council Board of Directors

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APPENDIX B: Map of Arkansas related to current service areas of CILS



<p>Independent Living Resource Center, d.b.a. Mainstream Rita Byers-Executive Director Serving: - Pulaski, Perry, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie, and part of Saline County Outlined in Pink</p>
<p>Spa Area Independent Living Services-SAILS Brenda Stinebuck-Executive Director Serving: Clark, Garland, Hot Spring, Montgomery, Pike, and the remainder of Saline County Outlines in Orange</p>
<p>Southeast Arkansas Independent Living Service- SAILS Southeast Brenda Stinebuck-Executive Director Serving: Grant, Jefferson, Arkansas, Cleveland, Lincoln, Desha, Bradley, Drew, Ashley, and Chicot Outlines in Yellow</p>
<p>Sources for Community IL Services (SOURCES) Jim Mather-PhD, CRC- Executive Director Serving- Benton, Carroll, Washington, and Madison. Outlined in Green</p>

Appendix C: Order of Priority for Establishing New Centers for Independent Living in these Areas



The first priority area for expansion of the IL network into unserved and underserved areas of the state is in Northeast Arkansas, serving the counties of Craighead, Mississippi, Poinsett, Cross and Crittenden

Outlined in Yellow

The second priority is a center in the Southwest are a serving the counties of Miller, Lafayette, Hempstead and Little River.

Outlined in Orange

The third priority is a center in the North Central counties, serving the counties of White, Cleburne, Independence, Jackson, and Woodruff.

Outlined in Blue