

State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

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

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: New Hampshire

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past three years, the New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council (NH SILC) has focused on strengthening its internal structure and capacity. The primary objective was to increase membership, fill officer vacancies, and ensure active participation in committees. Moving forward, the NH SILC is poised to make significant strides in addressing critical issues affecting individuals with disabilities in the state.

The FY2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) outlines a comprehensive strategy to tackle three key areas: Transportation, Housing, and Employment. These priorities were identified through extensive public input sessions and careful analysis of the current landscape.

Transportation remains a significant barrier for individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire. With limited public transportation options and inadequate weekend and cross-state services, many individuals face challenges in accessing employment and community resources. The NH SILC plans to collaborate with the State Coordinating Council for Community Transportation and Managed Care Organizations to advocate for expanded and accessible transportation services.

Housing affordability and accessibility are pressing concerns in New Hampshire. The NH SILC aims to establish partnerships with statewide information and referral systems to raise awareness of housing rights and resources for individuals with disabilities. By connecting people with available accessible and affordable housing options, the NH SILC seeks to enhance independent living opportunities throughout the state.

Employment is crucial for individuals with disabilities to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. The NH SILC recognizes the importance of addressing barriers to employment and promoting inclusive workplaces. Through collaboration with community partners, the NH SILC will provide education and training to employers, advocate for the protection of key benefits, and establish transition guidelines to support individuals with disabilities in their pursuit of meaningful employment.

To achieve these ambitious goals, the NH SILC will focus on organizational development and capacity building. This includes recruiting committed members, providing comprehensive orientation and training, and fostering a culture of active participation. By strengthening its internal structure, the NH SILC will be well-positioned to effectively advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire.

The NH SILC will also prioritize collaboration with disability partners to identify service gaps and ensure that all individuals with disabilities have access to the information and resources they need to live independently. Through strategic partnerships and targeted outreach efforts, the NH SILC aims to increase awareness of available services and support.

In conclusion, the FY2025-2027 SPIL represents a roadmap for the NH SILC to advance the independence, equality, and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire. By addressing critical issues in transportation, housing, and employment, and by building a strong and engaged council, the NH SILC is committed to creating a more accessible and inclusive state for all. Through collaboration, advocacy, and unwavering dedication, the NH SILC will work tirelessly to ensure that every individual with a disability has the opportunity to live independently and thrive in their community.

Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

The mission of the New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council is to provide leadership and advocacy in support of the Independent Living philosophy for persons with disabilities.

1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: Implement and Expand Independent Living Services Statewide

Goal #2: Promote Accessible and Affordable Transportation Options Statewide

Goal #3: SILC Development

Goal #4: In partnership with the state of New Hampshire, the Department of Education, Granite State Independent Living and other potential state agencies, identify the barriers to employment for individuals living with a disability and begin to collaboratively address ways to overcome these barriers

Goal #5: Housing

1.3 - OBJECTIVES

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

Goal #1: Implement and Expand Independent Living Services Statewide

Objective #1.1: Collaborate with disability partners to identify and map out the disability community across the state of NH to better determine where IL service gaps exist for underserved populations.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.1.1: Have a resource guide representing the state of NH outlining the area of need.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.2: Ensure all individuals living with a disability have full access to current information on available resources, including any funding opportunities.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.2.1: Greater community awareness and collaboration.

Indicator #1.2.2: Pooled resources of available programs/services.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.3: Increase awareness of the availability of IL services, so that public policy makers understand the importance of, and impact on, the state's economy.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.3.1: More informed law makers on disability issues/concerns.

Indicator #1.3.2: Improve independent living throughout.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #1.4: Work with community partners to develop and promote self-advocacy trainings to be made available to the disability community.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #1.4.1: Greater awareness of system advocacy and how it impacts change throughout.

Indicator #1.4.2: Ongoing trainings on self-advocacy for the disability community.

Indicator #1.4.3: Community collaboration and synergy on trainings.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #2: Promote Accessible and Affordable Transportation Options Statewide

Objective #2.1: Identify gaps in transportation services state-wide, regionally and locally.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.1.1: Identify existing resources within the state of NH for transportation available to the public and to individuals living with a disability.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.2: Secure a presence at the State Coordinating Council on Community Transportation and other organizations to ensure that the needs of individuals living with a disability are being heard.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.2.1: Increase collaboration with provider organizations to facilitate better service for

individuals living with a disability within provider service areas.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #2.3: Work with Managed Care Organization (MCO) providers and other Medicaid/Medicare entities to identify and address potential issues with services provided within the state.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #2.3.1: Create pathway to working with MCO providers regarding existing issues.

Indicator #2.3.2: Reduce any existing issues with MCO providers by individuals living with a disability through education of MCO providers.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #3: SILC Development

Objective #3.1: Create and implement a NH SILC member survey of skills, experiences and relevant training interests. The results will be tabulated to identify strengths, concerns and opportunities. This will provide an internal skill matrix to aid in effectiveness.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.1.1: Living skill matrix for NH SILC, updated with each new member.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Objective #3.2: Update Membership Term Tracker. This continuous process ensures leadership and membership can be reviewing the annual membership health in numbers and essential skills/experiences.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.2.1: Strategic recruitment goals to aid in sustainability of appropriate membership.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Objective #3.3: Create/Revise Skill/Expertise Matrix for SILC. Based on the above two components, a needs assessment can project current and anticipated membership training and outreach. It will be the responsibility of executive committee and membership to collaborate. This is an ongoing process with focus points to integrate with membership changes regularly.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.3.1: Identify essential training for present membership skills to strengthen NH SILC sustainability and effectiveness.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Objective #3.4: Identify Training/Education opportunities for SILC Processes, Tools, and Leadership Growth. Utilizing the created/revised tools, a list of appropriate training opportunities will be created. These are derived initially from the identified opportunities of the present member survey. It will include the executive insights from the skills and experience matrix with a focus on developing future internal leadership as well as ambassador skills for recruitment of new members.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.4.1: More robust internal knowledge of NH SIC relevant objectives, tools, and processes.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Objective #3.5: Implement Internal Training/Education Plans. A schedule of training either as a sub-component of full NH SILC meetings or a coordinated separate time to invite membership to train, learn and develop applicable NH SILC supporting needs. The conclusion of each training should involve a brief survey to confirm if the needs were met or if additional training is necessary.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.5.1: More robust internal knowledge of NH SIC relevant objectives, tools, and processes.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Objective #3.6: Enhance/implement Recruitment Processes & Methods. The ambassadorial training and needs assessment should highlight methods. The Membership committee should have specific targeted goals to meet the needs of incoming members in terms of numbers and skills. The average target for membership should range from 15-21 and include coordination to ensure balance in each successive year. This ensures the opportunity for mentorship, training and learning as members progress through their term limits and ensure long term sustainability.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #3.6.1: Active, robust, and full membership presently and with a forward focus pipeline.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Other(NH SILC)

Goal #4: In partnership with the state of New Hampshire, the Department of Education, Granite State Independent Living and other potential state agencies, identify the barriers to employment for individuals living with a disability and begin to collaboratively address ways to overcome these barriers

Objective #4.1: Become a recognized source of information regarding the role employment for individuals living with a disability plays in maintaining independent living.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.1.1: Strengthen interagency relationships and develop a list of partners in NH providing employment- related services.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.2: Work with community partners and other organizations around the state to increase awareness of the benefits of hiring individuals living with a disability and provide education and training to employers and the general public.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.2.1: A flyer or marketing sheet that can be made available to anyone seeking information and posted on the SILC website.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.3: Partner with benefits specialists and others throughout NH to educate and advocate for the safeguard of key benefits for individuals living with a disability who are currently working or who may wish to work sometime in the future, by becoming a source of information dissemination.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.3.1: The development of one or two public benefits orientation sessions each year.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #4.4: In collaboration with parents, schools and other interested organizations establish transition guidelines from school to work that can be replicated throughout the state and can be modified to help individuals who become disabled gain or sustain employment.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #4.4.1: Development of guidelines to use as a tool when meeting with schools, parents, students and organizations working in the area of transition.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Goal #5: Housing

Objective #5.1: Establish a statewide information and resource system for accessible housing in support of independent living options.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.1.1: Creation of a comprehensive database of accessible housing resources.

Indicator #5.1.2: Train staff at Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and other disability and housing organizations on using the database.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #5.1.1: Create a comprehensive database of accessible housing resources by the end of 2025.

Objective Info #5.1.2: Train staff at Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and other disability and housing organizations on using the database by mid-2026.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.2: Raise awareness of housing rights and resources for individuals living with a disability.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.2.1: New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA) and Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) tenants' rights workshops adapted for individuals living with a disability and distributed housing rights information in accessible and diverse formats.

Indicator #5.2.2: Hold two annual training sessions on housing rights and resources; created a public awareness campaign with disability organizations.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #5.2.1: Work with New Hampshire Legal Assistance and Granite State Organization Project to adapt their tenants' rights workshops for individuals living with a disability and distribute housing rights information in accessible and diverse formats by the end of 2025.

Objective Info #5.2.2: Hold 2 annual training sessions on housing rights and resources, reaching 100 participants per year.

Objective Info #5.2.3: Partner with disability organizations to create a public awareness campaign to reach as many individuals as possible by 2026.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.3: Improve access to home modifications and assistive technology.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.3.1: Development of resource guide on home modifications and assistive technology.

Indicator #5.3.2: Identify availability of, and advocate for, Medicaid coverage and other available funding for basic home modifications and assistive technology.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Objective Info #5.3.1: Develop a resource guide on home modifications and assistive technology for distribution.

Objective Info #5.3.2: Identify availability of, and advocate for, Medicaid coverage and other available funding of basic home modifications and assistive technology.

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.4: Foster partnerships to promote independent living.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.4.1: Identify and join 1-2 Housing Task Forces or groups to advocate for accessibility with disability organizations, housing providers, developers, financiers, zoning and planning board members, legislators, landlords, and government agencies, to improve housing accessibility and opportunities for independent living.

Indicator #5.4.2: Develop a workshop/presentation on housing accessibility and the needs of individuals living with a disability that can be delivered statewide to diverse stakeholder groups at

various housing conferences.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

Objective #5.5: Increase opportunities to connect individuals living with a disability with available disability/voucher friendly housing.

Measurable Indicators:

Indicator #5.5.1: Develop and maintain an opt-in list of resources (agencies and contact information) within the network of disability organizations, housing providers, accessible/voucher friendly landlords, and government housing agencies that support independent living and housing accessibility.

Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):

Geographic Scope: Statewide

1.4 - EVALUATION

1.4 - EVALUATION

Goal #1: Implement and Expand Independent Living Services Statewide

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Year 1 - throughout	Collaborate with disability partners to identify and map out the disability community across the state of NH to better determine where IL service gaps exist for underserved populations.	Information on NH's disability population, including detailed statistics broken down by geographic regions and key demographics where possible.	Compile existing data from government agencies, non-profit organizations, and research studies on disability demographics and service provision in New Hampshire.	SILC
Year 2 - throughout	Ensure all individuals living with a disability have full access to current information on available resources, including any funding opportunities.	Available IL resources throughout NH, noting where and how said resources can be accessed.	Through local collaboration and partnership, the SILC will identify the specific statewide independent living resources.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout SPIL	Increase awareness of the availability of IL services, so that public policy makers understand the importance of, and impact on, the state's economy.	Number of outreach efforts to public policy makers relative to the availability of IL services in NH.	The NH SILC will reach out to public policy makers to educate them on the importance of NH's disability community.	SILC
Years 2 and 3 - throughout	Work with community partners to develop and promote self-advocacy trainings to be made available to the disability community.	Number of offered self-advocacy trainings, including numbers of participants and feedback received.	Document attendance records and participation rates for self-advocacy training sessions and track changes in self-advocacy skills and confidence levels among participants before and after training.	SILC

Goal #2: Promote Accessible and Affordable Transportation Options Statewide

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
October 2024 January 2025 March 2025	Identify gaps in transportation services state-wide, regionally and locally.	List of transportation provider organizations; service ridership numbers.	Research online and communication via email or phone.	SILC
October 2024 January 2025 April 2025 January 2026 March 2026	Secure a presence at the State Coordinating Council on Community Transportation and other organizations to ensure that the needs of individuals living with a disability are being heard.	Create a list of Organizations to collaborate with or attend meetings of in order to make providers aware of needs of individual with disabilities.	Research online and communication via email or phone.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
October 2024 January 2025 October 2025 November 2025	Work with Managed Care Organization (MCO) providers and other Medicaid/Medicare entities to identify and address potential issues with services provided within the state.	Communication methods for contacting MCOs; issues of individuals with disabilities while using services provided by MCOs (if any).	Surveys sent electronically/hosted online/via Mail; Information collected from SILC Facebook page; Electronic communications and by word of mouth with different disability organizations and meetings of those organizations.	SILC

Goal #3: SILC Development

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
July 2024-October 2024	Create and implement a NH SILC member survey of skills, experiences and relevant training interests. The results will be tabulated to identify strengths, concerns and opportunities. This will provide an internal skill matrix to aid in effectiveness.	Experience and Skill Matrix of Present NH SILC.	Survey of NH SILC membership.	SILC
October 2024-December 2024, Ongoing	Update Membership Term Tracker. This continuous process ensures leadership and membership can be reviewing the annual membership health in numbers and essential skills/experiences.	List of recruitment needs based on skills and disability representation.	Membership Committee Meeting action; Executive Committee review.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
October 2024-January 2025, Annual review	Create/Revise Skill/Expertise Matrix for SILC. Based on the above two components, a needs assessment can project current and anticipated membership training and outreach. It will be the responsibility of executive committee and membership to collaborate. This is an ongoing process with focus points to integrate with membership changes regularly.	List of necessary training opportunities.	Review of skill matrix for present membership of NH SILC.	SILC
January 2025, Ongoing	Identify Training/Education opportunities for SILC Processes, Tools, and Leadership Growth. Utilizing the created/revised tools, a list of appropriate training opportunities will be created. These are derived initially from the identified opportunities of the present member survey. It will include the executive insights from the skills and experience matrix with a focus on developing future internal leadership as well as ambassador skills for recruitment of new members.	Success of training - updated skill matrix with leadership and recruitment focus.	Informal survey of preferences; Formal survey of training results.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
March 2025-Ongoing	Implement Internal Training/Education Plans. A schedule of training either as a sub-component of full NH SILC meetings or a coordinated separate time to invite membership to train, learn and develop applicable NH SILC supporting needs. The conclusion of each training should involve a brief survey to confirm if the needs were met or if additional training is necessary.	List of impactful training opportunities and success of prior training.	Informal survey of preferences, formal survey of training results.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
October 2024 - Ongoing	Enhance/implement Recruitment Processes & Methods. The ambassadorial training and needs assessment should highlight methods. The Membership committee should have specific targeted goals to meet the needs of incoming members in terms of numbers and skills. The average target for membership should range from 15-21 and include coordination to ensure balance in each successive year. This ensures the opportunity for mentorship, training and learning as members progress through their term limits and ensure long term sustainability.	Recruitment goals; Identified candidate lists; Candidate interviews and recommendations; Approval/denial tracking.	Membership meeting discussion/recording.	SILC

Goal #4: In partnership with the state of New Hampshire, the Department of Education, Granite State Independent Living and other potential state agencies, identify the barriers to employment for individuals living with a disability and begin to collaboratively address ways to overcome these barriers

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Year 1 - Throughout	Become a recognized source of information regarding the role employment for individuals living with a disability plays in maintaining independent living.	List of which partners in NH provide employment-related services, what they provide and the overall success rates for gaining employment after services are provided.	Develop and strengthen interagency relationships in which sharing of data can occur; Develop and implement semi-annual interagency meetings to share information regarding employment for people with disabilities.	SILC
Year 2 - Throughout	Work with community partners and other organizations around the state to increase awareness of the benefits of hiring individuals living with a disability and provide education and training to employers and the general public.	Research and collect current information on business incentives for hiring those with disabilities for small and larger businesses.	Develop a flyer/marketing sheet that can be posted to the SILC website as well as distributed widely by partners.	SILC
Throughout SPIL	Partner with benefits specialists and others throughout NH to educate and advocate for the safeguard of key benefits for individuals living with a disability who are currently working or who may wish to work sometime in the future, by becoming a source of information dissemination.	Collaborate to increase awareness of this service for those with a disability wishing to seek employment; Develop a partnership of benefits specialists.	Host a public benefits orientation session annually or twice annually to increase awareness of this service for those with a disability wishing to seek employment; Record this session and post on the SILC website or make available to share.	SILC

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Years 2 and 3 - Throughout	In collaboration with parents, schools and other interested organizations establish transition guidelines from school to work that can be replicated throughout the state and can be modified to help individuals who become disabled gain or sustain employment.	Collaborate with VR, parents and schools to set up a guideline for transition from school to work.	Collect feedback from stakeholders and develop this based upon existing models that partners are using; This guideline would be an electronic document that could be shared widely on partners' websites and/or the SILC website.	SILC

Goal #5: Housing

Timeline	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection
Year 1 (2024) Q1, Q2, Q4 Year 2 (2025) Q1, Q4 Year 3 (2026) Q3, Q4	Establish a statewide information and resource system for accessible housing in support of independent living options.	Available accessible housing resources.	Training roster/list of people trained.	SILC
Year 1 (2024) Q1, Q2, Q4 Year 2 (2025) Q1, Q2, Q3 Year 3 (2026) Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4	Raise awareness of housing rights and resources for individuals living with a disability.	Available adapted resources/tools; Distribution list/count; Attendees at training sessions; Start/end date of awareness campaign and list/reach of activities.	Number of participations for workshops.	SILC
Year 1 (2024) Q3 Year 2 (2025) Q2, Q3 Year 3 (2026) Q1, Q2, Q4	Improve access to home modifications and assistive technology.	Product distribution (guide), funds accessed; Distribution list/count; Attendees at training sessions.	Number of individuals assisted.	SILC
Year 1 (2024) Q1, Q3 Year 2 (2025) Q2, Q3, Q4 Year 3 (2026) Q1, Q2, Q4	Foster partnerships to promote independent living.	Inventory of existing housing groups; Distribution list/count; Attendees at presentations/workshops.	Number of workshops/presentations delivered; Number of partnerships/impacts of available, accessible housing.	SILC
Year 1 (2024) Q2, Q4 Year 2 (2025) Q4 Year 3 (2026) Q3, Q4	Increase opportunities to connect individuals living with a disability with available disability/voucher friendly housing.	Number of people that have opted-in to the list.	Exit questions to help determine success of the program.	SILC

1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

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

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses					
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs	TOTAL
Title VII Funds						
Chapter 1, Part B	\$0	\$348060	\$0	\$0	\$19143	\$367203
Chapter 1, Part C	\$0	\$0	\$1094997	\$0		\$1094997
						\$1462200
Other Federal Funds						
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$79000		\$79000
Social Security Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$142		\$142
						\$79142
Non-Federal Funds						
Part B State Match	\$38746	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$38746
Other State Match for Funds in SPIL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
						\$38746
TOTAL	\$38746	\$348060	\$1094997	\$79142	\$19143	\$1580088

1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

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

Since the last approved SPIL, the resources available for Independent Living Services in New Hampshire continue to remain limited. These resources will to be used to continue the strong partnerships with the DSE, Granite State Independent Living Services, and the SILC to continue to engage with the Department of Health and Human Services, in the achievement of the SPIL's objectives.

The coordination of Federal and State funding for IL Services is standard practice in this state because of the minimal funding received. The State IL Program utilizes the Part B monies (Federal and State Match) to leverage additional independent living services for individuals with significant disabilities from qualified non-profit community-based service providers. Part B monies are distributed annually through the State's Request for Proposal process. The IL Center has been a recipient of Part B monies for more than 30 years. As a result, the level of coordination of IL services is very high. The number of new individuals receiving IL services continues to increase modestly.

Because the IL center has a well-established service delivery system and partnerships with other funding streams, Part B monies can directly impact individuals with significant disabilities without duplication. There are three additional providers funded through Part B, the Brain Injury Association of NH, and Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services and Future In Sight. Because of the service delivery infrastructure that has been developed, through the continued close collaborations between the IL Center and the other Part B contractors, there continues to be increased capacity for the State Services for Independent Living Program.

The DSE funding pays for supplemental services to support the SILC (Interpreters, Personal Care Attendants, Transportation, etc.). This amount the last year was \$13,458.26. In addition, DSE pays for the federal and state audit funds in the amount of \$350.06, Indirect costs of \$1,580.21, \$15,086.95 for the Administrator's salary and benefits to administer the program which is less than the 5% maximum allowed. The final cost allocated from DSE funding is for the contract with the Governor's Commission on Disability. This contract is \$90,000/year and pays for the SILC assistant position and management expenses.

Review Status: Approved

Section 2: Scope, Extent and Arrangements of Services

2.1 - SERVICES

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

Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

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

Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

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

Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

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

Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

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

Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes & other institutions

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

Transition Services: Diversion from institutions

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

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

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

Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with disabilities)

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

Rehabilitation technology

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	DSE Other (Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services; Future in Sight)

Mobility training

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes

Provided By	DSE Other (Future in Sight)
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Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	Yes
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other (NH Brain Injury Association; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services)

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL

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

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

Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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

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

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

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

Physical rehabilitation

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	DSE

Therapeutic treatment

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	DSE Other (Future in Sight)

Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	DSE

Individual and group social and recreational services

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other (Future in Sight; NH Brain Injury Association; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.)

Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other (Future in Sight; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.)

Services for children

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No

Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL Other (Future in Sight; NH Brain Injury Association; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.)

Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other (Future in Sight; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.; NH Brain Injury Association)

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE Other (Future in Sight; Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Inc.; NH Brain Injury Association)

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

Is this service being provided?	Yes
Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds?	No
Provided using other funds?	Yes
Provided By	CIL DSE

2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name:

2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

According to a report in 2022 by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) of the US Health Resources and Services Administration, New Hampshire has a large rural population of approximately 47%. 84% of the landmass is considered rural with much of the land area lying in the North and West of the Capital Concord. The majority of the population (53%) live in the southern and central areas of the state.

The NH SILC used multiple resources to identify underserved and unserved populations in NH. Resources such as VR NH's 2022 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment and the American Community Survey. In VR NH's 2022 Comprehensive Statewide Needs Assessment collected data from VR staff and providers identified the following unserved/underserved population: non-English speakers, rural, north, mental health disabilities, and cognitive or intellectual/developmental disabilities. All these populations face barriers such as access to transportation and lack of awareness of services available. Groups with mental health or cognitive/IDD disabilities and populations in the Northern and Rural areas face additional barriers such as a lack of support services and staff capacity to provide services. Non-English-speaking populations additionally face barriers related to access to cultural/interpreter/translation services. In the 2022 American Community Survey (ACC) 1-year estimates 13.2% of the population has a disability, 5.6% has a cognitive difficulty and 5.2% has an independent living difficulty. Under ACC, a cognitive difficulty is because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty remembering, concentrating, or making decisions. Under ACC, an independent living difficulty is because of a physical, mental, or emotional problem, having difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping. These two disability types could be considered the equivalent of mental health disabilities and cognitive or intellectual developmental disabilities. 7.8% of the population in NH speak a language other than English, out of that 30% speak English less than "very well". There are different definitions of what would be considered the north country or the northern area of the state. The northern tip of the state which is considered Coos County which in the 2020 population consists of a population of 31,268 with a population density of 17.4 per square mile. All these populations face transportation barriers. Transportation is often needed to access one's community.

The percentage of African Americans in NH overall is 2.4%. Most of the population is in Hillsborough country or the southern region of the state, with a 3.9%. The percentage of American Indian and Alaska Native in NH overall is 1.8%. Most of the population is in Sullivan country which borders Vermont and is in the western part of the state. The percentage of the Asian population in NH overall is 3.4%. Most of the population is in Hillsborough County or the southern region of the state at 4.8%, but there is a 4.4% in Sullivan County and 4.2% in Grafton County which is in the northern region of the state. The percentage of native Hawaiian or other pacific islanders in NH overall is 0.1% with most of the population being in Stanford County (eastern part of the state) and Cheshire County (southern part of the state, bordering Massachusetts and Vermont) both with 0.2%. The percentage of some other race in NH overall is 4.5% with most being in Hillsborough County with 7.4% The percentage of two or more races in NH overall is 5.6%.

GSIL has and continues to offer transportation services to individuals with disabilities who qualify. This includes non-English speaking populations, northern populations, rural populations, and groups with mental health or cognitive/IDD disabilities. The agency also provides or reimburses for transportation to meet one's social needs using Part B dollars.

Lastly, as published in the Concord Monitor on June 20, 2024, according to the most recent information from the latest estimates from the US Census rural areas, particularly the Lakes Region and areas near the White Mountains, have seen substantial population boosts from July 2020 to 2023, the figures show.

Carroll County stands out, with the small town of Brookfield leading the state with an 8.7% rise, adding 66 people to its population.

Phil Sletten, Research Director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute pointed out that this

rural population growth since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic mirrors a national trend. "The growth in these amenity-rich areas likely reflects people moving there for their natural amenities, either to retire or they were enabled to move to these areas by remote work opportunities", explained Sletten.

With this in mind, the NH SILC can explore support of remote opportunities for people in these traditionally underserved areas.

2.3 - COORDINATION

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

Since the last approved SPIL, the resources available for Independent Living Services in New Hampshire remain limited. In order to maximize these resources, the SPIL objectives will be attended to with a small allocation of funds that the SILC retains for its own use (training, conferences, etc.) as well as some funds that the DSE uses to help support the NH SILC. These resources will be used to continue the NH SILC's strong partnerships with the DSE, the CIL, and the current three other agencies receiving Part B funding.

The coordination of Federal and State funding for IL Services is standard practice in NH because of the minimal funding received. The State IL Program utilizes the Part B monies (Federal and State Match) to leverage additional independent living services for individuals with significant disabilities from qualified non-profit community-based service providers.

Within the past SPIL 2020-24, the NH SILC has gained a new Part B partner 2022. Future in Sight, provides a wide range of services/supports to people who are blind or visually impaired. This population is traditionally the most underserved, and there continues to be an increased need for this population in NH.

There are two additional providers funded through Part B, the Brain Injury Association of NH, and Northeast Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. These providers have received funding for more than 15 years. Because of the service delivery infrastructure that has been developed, through the continued close collaborations between the IL Center and the other two, Part B contractors, there continues to be increased capacity for the State Services for Independent Living Program without duplication in spending.

The DSE now provides meeting space for the NH SILC for its general meetings. The NH SILC provides communication access for all meetings, resources for accessible transportation of NH SILC members to its meetings, as well as transportation reimbursement for those members who can use a car or driver. The DSE also provides the use of equipment for presentations by NH SILC members. As needed, the NH SILC meetings also are able to be fully remote.

Review Status: Approved

Section 3: Network of Centers

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Granite State Independent Living

Counties Served: Grafton, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Strafford, Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Rockingham, Sullivan

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: The DSE receives monthly reports and invoices from all Part B fund recipients, those reports and invoices are reviewed by the DSE for accuracy and compliance with the Part B contracts for each vendor.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: N/A

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

Oversight Process: N/A

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Grafton (Full Services)

Hillsborough (Full Services)

Merrimack (Full Services)

Strafford (Full Services)

Belknap (Full Services)

Carroll (Full Services)

Cheshire (Full Services)

Coos (Full Services)

Rockingham (Full Services)

Sullivan (Full Services)

3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

CIL Network

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

We don't have a network; we only have one CIL.

3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

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

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

NH is a single CIL state.

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

NH is a single CIL state.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

As in previous SPILs, the lack of capacity of NH to support additional IL Centers has not changed. The availability of monies in the state to sustain non-profit agencies continues to shrink and there

are simply not enough resources for the state to sustain an additional Center. The expansion of additional ILCs is further hampered by the fact that 7 of the 10 Counties in NH are considered rural. A new Center would lack basic fiscal viability. Federal support for services continues to be based on a cost of living increase, or in some cases a reduction of Federal monies, and the State struggles to generate adequate resources to fund even the most basic of human services. Expanding the IL network is not a viable or realistic option during the FY 2024 SPIL. If funding for ILCs increases over time, the NH SILC will reevaluate the need for additional ILCs and or other providers and issue an off-cycle RFP if needed. Until such time as the number of ILCs in NH changes, the DSE shall allocate Part B funds to the existing providers. Should the funding for part B service be cut, the funding to each of the contractors will be cut accordingly.

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

Due to the lack of capacity in NH to support additional IL Centers has not changed. The availability of monies in the state to sustain non-profit agencies continues to shrink and there are simply not enough resources for the state to sustain an additional Center. The expansion of additional ILCs is further hampered by the fact that 7 of the 10 Counties in NH are considered rural. A new Center would lack basic fiscal viability. Federal support for services continues to be based on a cost-of-living increase, or in some cases a reduction of Federal monies, and the State struggles to generate adequate resources to fund even the most basic of human services. Based on the facts above it would take extraordinary circumstances to remove funding let alone close the current IL Center, should that unforeseen event occur, the SILC would need to discuss the options and make a recommendation regarding fund reduction or closing of the IL Center in NH.

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

The DSE provides all IL services through contracts with community-based non-profit providers whose Boards are comprised of at least 51% of individuals with disabilities. The DSE puts out an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) which specifically sets forth the services needed to be provided for underserved or unserved populations. The DSE reviews all proposals and selects providers based on the requirements established by the RFP, as defined by the DSE. Contracts are written with specific requirements ensuring that the funds are used appropriately. The coordination of Federal and State funding for IL Services is standard practice in NH because of the minimal funding received. The State IL Program utilizes the Part B monies (Federal and State Match) to leverage additional independent living services for individuals with significant disabilities from qualified non-profit community-based service providers. Part B monies have been distributed annually through the State's Request for Proposal and contracting processes. The IL Center has been a recipient of Part B monies for more than 25 years. As a result, the level of coordination of IL services in NH is very high. The number of new individuals receiving IL services continues to increase modestly. Because the IL center has a well-established service delivery system and partnerships with other funding streams, Part B monies can directly impact individuals with significant disabilities without duplication. There is a monthly review of all expenses and services to ensure that they are in compliance with the contract's provisions and statutory requirements.

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

The DSE provides all IL services through contracts with community-based non-profit providers whose Boards are comprised of at least 51% of individuals with disabilities. The DSE puts out an annual Request for Proposals (RFP) which specifically sets forth the services needed to be provided

for underserved or unserved populations. The DSE reviews all proposals and selects providers based on the requirements established by the RFP, as defined by the DSE. Contracts are written with specific requirements ensuring that the funds are used appropriately. The coordination of Federal and State funding for IL Services is standard practice in NH because of the minimal funding received. The State IL Program utilizes the Part B monies (Federal and State Match) to leverage additional independent living services for individuals with significant disabilities from qualified non-profit community-based service providers. Part B monies have been distributed annually through the State's Request for Proposal and contracting processes. The IL Center has been a recipient of Part B monies for more than 25 years. As a result, the level of coordination of IL services in NH is very high. The number of new individuals receiving IL services continues to increase modestly. Because the IL center has a well-established service delivery system and partnerships with other funding streams, Part B monies can directly impact individuals with significant disabilities without duplication. There is a monthly review of all expenses and services to ensure that they are in compliance with the contract's provisions and statutory requirements.

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

The DSE would reduce funding for the current four-Part B service providers based upon the funding distribution formula used during RFP review and scoring process. Each service provider received a score based on their RFP submission, the highest score would receive a preset percentage of the Part B grant and that process would continue for all RFP submissions. If funding were reduced the amount of Part B funds awarded would be reduced proportionally in relation to the services providers score for their RFP submission.

In distributing funding from the Independent Living, Part B program, the following formula is applied:

- All proposals that meet basic qualifications get an average score based on the calculations from the team members reviewing the proposal.
- Each proposal is ranked, with funding, based on the percentage of their request, of the total grant award available.
- The highest ranked proposal receives a 3% increase of funding over the total available. The second highest proposal receives a 1% increase of funding over the total available. The third proposal receives -1% of funding less than the total available. The fourth highest proposal receives -2% less than the total funds available.

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

The State of NH only has only one CIL which is Granite State Independent Living which serves all countries in NH. Any increases in funding would be used to expand current IL services being provided as recommended by NH SILC.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

Review Status: Approved

Section 4: Designated State Entity

4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Department of Education will serve as the entity in New Hampshire designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

- receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;
- keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
- retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).

4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The DSE provides administrative support to the SILC through a contract with the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD). The contract includes housing the SILC office, the salary of the SILC Program Assistant, and the routine office expenses to conduct the business of the SILC. The DSE does not assign the SILC Program Assistant any duties that would create a conflict of interest. The SILC Program Assistant is directly supervised by the Executive Director of the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD), however she works solely on issues which are related to Independent Living, with all assignments made and/or vetted and approved by the SILC Chair and Executive Committee. While the personnel evaluation for the SILC Program Assistant is the responsibility of the GCD Executive Director in compliance with state personnel rules, the SILC Chair and members of the Executive Committee provide substantial input into the Assistant's personnel performance evaluation.

4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

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

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

There are no State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

4.4 - GRANT PROCESS & DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

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

Instructions: Describe the processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds including: (all of the following are required)

Process for soliciting proposals

The DSE provides all IL services through contracts with community-based non-profit providers whose Boards are comprised of at least 51% of individuals with disabilities. Every 3-years the DSE

will put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) which specifically sets forth the services needed to be provided, including for underserved or unserved populations. The DSE will review all proposals received and select providers based on the requirements established by the RFP. Contracts will be written with specific requirements, ensuring that the funds are used appropriately.

Development of format for proposals

The DSE in conjunction with the SILC, develop the formal request for proposals.

Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

In distributing funding from the Independent Living, Part B program, the following formula is applied:

- All proposals that meet basic qualifications get an average score based on the calculations from the team members reviewing the proposal.
- Each proposal is ranked, with funding, based on the percentage of their request, of the total grant award available.
- The highest ranked proposal receives a 3% increase of funding over the total available. The second highest proposal receives a 1% increase of funding over the total available. The third proposal receives -1% of funding less than the total available. The fourth highest proposal receives -2% less than the total funds available.

The DSE receives all proposals from prospective Part B vendors. A review committee consisting of VR staff, reviews and scores all proposals based off the RFP. Based on the distribution formula above, funds are distributed to the vendors.

Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

The DSE will conduct biannual monitoring visits for all the IL Part B grantees including the CIL. The DSE receives monthly invoices and reports from all grantees. Those reports are reviewed for accuracy and compliance per the signed contract.

4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

There is a regular review of all expenses and services to ensure that Part B contractors are following the contract provisions and statutory requirements.

4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

722 State

Review Status: Approved

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council, located at 54 Regional Drive Suite 5, Concord, NH 03301, was and continues to be operational pursuant to the statutory provisions in

Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and governed by Council approved Bylaws. The DSE provides administrative support to the SILC through a contract with the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD). The contract includes housing the SILC office, the salary of the SILC Program Assistant and the routine office expenses to conduct the business of the SILC. The DSE does not assign the SILC Program Assistant any duties that would create a conflict of interest. The SILC Program Assistant works solely on issues which are related to Independent Living with all assignments vetted and approved by the SILC Chair. The SILC Program Assistant is directly supervised by the Executive Director of the GCD. However, the SILC Chair and Executive Committee have authority to provide specific supervision regarding SILC related projects. While the personnel evaluation for the SILC Program Assistant is the responsibility of the GCD Executive Director, in compliance with state personnel rules, the SILC Chair and members of the Executive Committee provide substantial input into the Program Assistant's personnel performance evaluation as well as any needed disciplinary action.

5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

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

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

The three-year resource plan prepared by the SILC provides for salary, benefits, housing of the office, office supplies and equipment. These are funded through the NH's Innovation and Expansion resources under WIOA, Title IV, Rehabilitation Act Amendments. The DSE utilizes Title VII resources for costs associated with full SILC meetings and its committee/task force meetings, including transportation, communication and meeting access, and meeting materials. The SILC Executive Committee is charged with the oversight of the SILC's resources. As part of the State of New Hampshire's contract requirements, all Part B grantees are required to submit fiscal and performance reports, as well as year-end reports. The Executive Committee reviews these reports. Funding levels are presented in section 1.5.

The staffing and administrative cost provided to the SILC are done through a 2-year contract between the DSE and the Governors Council on Disability. The breakdown of costs in the current contract for FGY25 are below as are the proposed contract expenses for FY26 & FY27.

FY 2025 Expenses *per current contractt contractSalary-Benefits:FY25 Salary (\$18.47) 27,853.0026
Pay Periods (1508 hrs.)FY25 Annual Leave 1,385,0075 HoursSubtotal: 29,238.00

Benefits:

Total:

2,388.00

31,626.00

Administrative Fee: Executive Director

\$8,659.00

for supervision (9%)

Accounting 4,528.00for payroll accounting (7.5%)Benefits 7,811.00for above payroll taxesTelephone

line 100.00plus use of toll-free lineCopier share 900.00plus supplies (paper, toner)Rent share

5,060.00(based on per staff person)Subtotal 27,058.00 Misc. Expenses

Total

31,316.00

\$58,374.00

postage, calls, interpreters, etc.

Total Payments for FY 2025:

Salary/Benefits
 Cost
 \$31,626.00
 Administrative Fee: 27,058.00 Misc. SILC Expenses 31,316.00 \$90,000.00
 FY26 & FY27 Expenses *per the
 proposed contract Salary-Benefits: FY25 Salary (\$18.47) 28,411.00 26 Pay Periods (1508 hrs.) FY25
 Annual Leave 1,413,00 75 Hours Subtotal: 29,524.00
 Benefits:
 Total:
2,436.00
31,960.00
Administrative Fee: Executive Director
 \$8,832.00
 for supervision (9%)
 Accounting 4,619.00 for payroll accounting (7.5%) Benefits 7,967.00 for above payroll taxes Telephone
 line 120.00 plus, use of toll-free line Copier share 918.00 plus, supplies (paper, toner) Rent share
5,161.00 (based on per staff person) Subtotal 27,617.00 Misc. Expenses
 Total
31,942.00
\$59,559.00
 postage, calls, interpreters, etc.
 Total Payments for FY 2025:
 Salary/Benefits
 Cost
 \$31,960.00
 Administrative Fee: 27,617.00 Misc. SILC Expenses 31,942.00 \$91,519.00
 Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The SILC established five work groups based on each goal identified as a SILC priority. Each group worked independently to expand on the goals identified to create objectives and data to be collected, which was then presented to the full SILC members for review and comments. The final copy was sent out for review and vote by the entire SILC.

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

Part B vendors and the SILC through the contract, are required to submit invoices and reports. Payment is disbursed based on review and approval of the reports and invoices. Justification if more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan.

5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

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

Instructions: Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Indicate who appoints members to the SILC, how the State ensures that the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met, how the chair is selected, how term limits are maintained, and how SILC vacancies are filled. Describe how the specific SILC-staffing requirements listed in the SPIL Instrument will be addressed. Concisely describe or cite relevant written policies, procedures, by-laws, technical assistance, and monitoring activities, or other practices.

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

The SILC is established and operating

The SILC is governed by the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures (P&Ps) of the SILC. SILC membership and recruitment continues to be guided by the following criteria: statewide representation; representation of a broad range of individuals with significant disabilities; knowledge of the Independent Living philosophy; persons from or representing ethnic minorities; and the knowledge of the independent living services and needs in NH as they relate to community living of persons with significant disabilities. The SILC recruits its members directly from individuals who indicate an interest in serving on the SILC, via word-of-mouth, from cross disability organizations & service providers, and from recommendations of current SILC members. The NH SILC has worked diligently to build its Membership Committee, and now has a fully functioning and active committee. This committee redesigned the application and vetting process for each new SILC member. The process now entails having a new application be discussed with the Membership Committee first, and then once approved, it is passed directly to the full SILC for review. The full SILC then conducts a question-and-answer session with the potential member. After this session, the full SILC votes on the member separately from this vetting session. Once the member has been vetted and considered viable, the Chair then makes an appointment recommendation to the Governor's Office. Each member is appointed by the Governor to a three-year term, except if a member is appointed to fill a vacant position which occurs prior to the term's end.

The SILC Membership Committee is responsible for community outreach for potential SILC members. The process is straightforward. When an individual has indicated an interest in serving on the SILC, they are sent an application by email or they are sent a link to the application located on the SILC website. General information is provided to the potential member about the Council, its work, and responsibilities. The application is forwarded to the Membership Committee for its review and recommendation. The DSE participates in the review and provides input but does not participate in the decision on forwarding the recommendation to the Governor. If for some reason the applicant is determined not to be suitable, then a letter is sent from the Executive Committee. If the application is approved, the application and the resume are forwarded on to the Governor's Office for final action. If there are questions, as much additional information as available is provided. The Governor's Office apprises the individual of the appointment by letter. A new element to onboarding new members has been adopted as well. Now, once a member is approved by the Governor, they receive an orientation packet which consists of our current By-Laws, IL Philosophy, IL History, People First Language, Primer on NH Legislative Process, and information about the CIL. They also receive a list of common acronyms used in SILC meetings and throughout the NH disability community.

The SILC Membership Committee tracks the terms of the members via a document that lists out when a member's first term starts, when their first term ends, when their second term starts, when their second term ends, and their membership category (example: individual with a disability not employed by a CIL or state agency). This allows the council to know when a member's first term or second term near its end and if they can be reappointed or not. As per our bylaws, once a member's second term ends, they will no longer be a voting member of the council and need to wait one year to apply again for membership. These individuals will be required to go through the process that all applicants must go through. When a member's second term ends or they resign, their information such as term dates or resignation dates are added to another part of the document. This allows the Membership Committee to make sure a previous member waits a year before applying again as a member. The document also lists out vacant positions and in a separate section, individuals who are in the joining the council, where the individuals are in the application/appointment process, and what membership category they would fall under. This ensures we can see if any of the applicants can fill a vacant position. The part of the bylaws that covers the membership composition and appointment can be found at the end of this part of section 5.3.

The Chair of the council is appointed by the vote of the council during a Full SILC meeting. Members are notified via email ten days before a Full SILC meeting that an election for officer positions will occur. The email will also include the slate of officers that will be presented at the meeting. The part

of the bylaws that covers the appointment of the Chair can be found at the end of this part of section 5.3.

Article III Council Membership

Section 1. Number of Members

The Council shall consist of not less than seven (7) or more than fourteen (14) members.

Section 2. Appointment

Members of the SILC shall be appointed by the Governor. Interested individuals must contact the SILC's Chairperson indicating their interest in becoming a council member. The SILC chairperson forwards individual's resume to the SILC's membership committee to put forth to the Council for approval to send to the Governor's office. The effective date of each member's term will be the date of the Governor's appointment letter.

Members:

- Support the purpose, mission, and philosophy of SILC.
- Commit time, expertise, and energy to the fulfillment of the purpose of the Council including regular attendance at Council meetings and must serve on at least one of the standing committees during their tenure as a Council member.
- Will not designate another individual to represent him/her at SILC meetings or SILC committee meetings.

Section 3: Composition

- As a voting member, the director of the Center for Independent Living.
- As ex officio, non-voting members, a representative from the DSE, and representatives from other State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.
- Additional members may include:
 - Voting members may include:
 - Parents and/or guardians of individuals living with a disability.
 - Individuals living with a disability.
 - Advocates of and for individuals living with a disability.
 - Representatives from private business.
 - Representatives from organizations that provide services for individuals living with a disability.
 - Other interested individuals.
 - Non-voting: Other representatives from the Center for Independent Living.
- No organization may have more than 2 employees serve on the Council at the same time.

Section 4. Council Composition

Membership recruitment will be guided by the following:

- Members who provide statewide representation.
- Those who represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.
- Knowledge about the independent living philosophy, movement, and needs.
- Require that a majority of members are individuals living with a disability and are not employed by any State agency or any Center for Independent Living.

Section 5. Term of Office

- Each member of the SILC is appointed to serve for a term of three (3) years.
- No member of the SILC may serve more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.
- Following one year out of office, a former Member would again be eligible to serve two (2) successive three-year terms.

Section 6 Removal

Any Council member may be removed as a member of the Council and /or as an officer of the Council by a Super Majority of the full Council members at any time for any reason.

Section 7. Resignation

Any Council member may resign in writing to the SILC Chair. Such resignation shall be effective

upon receipt unless it is specified to be effective at some other time or upon the happening of some other event.

Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

When an individual is voted in by the council, a Request for Appointment or Request for Reappointment Letter is developed with input from the Chair of the SILC. The Request for Appointment or Request for Reappointment Letter, along with their application and if available their resume, are sent to our contact at the Governor's Office. If an appointment has not yet been made in a timely manner, an email and/or a phone call is sent to our contact at the Governor's Office. The SILC is organized in a way to ensure it is not part of any state agency

The SILC is not part of any state agency. To ensure this, state employees attending meetings in an official capacity are non-voting.

The SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties and authorities, including “[working] with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, . . . conducting resource development, and performing such other functions . . . as the [SILC] determines to be appropriate

The SILC is not part of any state agency and has complete autonomy to coordinate services with the CIL and other identified resources.

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

The three-year resource plan prepared by the SILC provides for salary, benefits, housing of the office, office supplies and equipment. These are funded through the NH's Innovation and Expansion resources under WIOA, Title IV, Rehabilitation Act Amendments. The DSE utilizes Title VII resources for costs associated with full SILC meetings and its committee/task force meetings, including transportation, communication and meeting access, and meeting materials. The SILC Executive Committee is charged with the oversight of the SILC's resources. As part of the State of New Hampshire's contract requirements, all Part B grantees are required to submit fiscal and performance reports, as well as year-end reports. The Executive Committee reviews these reports. Funding levels are presented in section 1.5.

Review Status: Approved

Section 6: Legal Basis & Certifications

6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

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

Authorized representative of the DSE Scott Vittner. Title: Administrator.

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 New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council.

6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

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

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

Review Status: Approved

Section 7: DSE Assurances

DSE ASSURANCES

Scott Vittner acting on behalf of the DSE Department of Education located at:

Street: 21 South Fruit

City: Concord

State: NH

Zip Code: 3301

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).

DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

Scott Vittner

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative
Administrator Services for the Blind and Vision Impaired
Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Scott Vittner

Electronic Signature

07/01/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

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

Minimum Compliance

8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

Carrie Dudley acting on behalf of the SILC New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 54 Regional Drive

City: Concord

State: NH

Zip Code: 3301

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

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

8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

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

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

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

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

vi. Other costs as appropriate.

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

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

Carrie Dudley
Name of SILC Chair
Carrie A. Dudley
Electronic Signature
07/01/2024
Date
I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

Review Status: Approved

Section 9: Signatures

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 New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is 10/01/2024

SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

Carrie Dudley Name of SILC Chair Carrie A. Dudley Electronic Signature 07/01/2024 Date I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

Granite State Independent Living Name of Center for Independent Living Deborah Ritcey Name of CIL Director Deborah Ritcey Electronic Signature 07/01/2024 Date

Review Status: Approved