

State: New Hampshire

STATE PLAN

FOR

INDEPENDENT LIVING

FISCAL YEARS 2001 - 2004

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

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ATTACHMENTS

The following is a list of the attachments in the SPIL. The attachments listed are numbered to coincide with their section. It is recommended that these attachments not exceed a combined total of 40 pages in length.

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Section 1: Purpose of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), under Chapter 1 of Title VII

1.1 Philosophy of the Programs (Sec. 701 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.2)

The State assures that in the implementation of this plan the State will:

- (a) Promote a philosophy of independent living (IL), including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual, and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society by providing financial assistance to States;
- (b) Provide financial assistance for providing, expanding, or improving the provision of IL services;
- (c) Provide assistance to develop and support a Statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services; and
- (d) Advocate for improving working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.

1.2 Participation in the Programs (Sec. 704(a)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.10)

The DSU and SILC understands that no Federal funds or other benefits can be made available under Chapter 1 unless the State conforms with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

- (a) This SPIL reflects the State's commitment to carry out an IL plan under Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Chapter 1)¹, and also the State's planning and implementation activities related to the plan.

¹ Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Laws 93-516, 93-651, 95-602, 98-221, 99-506, 100-259, 100-630, 101-336, 102-569, 103-73, and 103-218.

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Section 2: Legal Basis and State Certifications (Sec. 704 of the Act)

As a condition to the receipt of financial assistance under Chapter 1, the

New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council

(Name of Statewide Independent Living Council)

jointly with the DSU is authorized to develop and sign the SPIL. The DSU and SILC agree to administer the programs in compliance with the provisions of the Act, all applicable regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated by the Secretary, and the provisions of this SPIL.

- (b) The State legally may carry out each provision of the SPIL and the DSU has the authority under State law to perform the functions of the plan.
- (c) All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.
- (d) The Director, Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation

(Title of State Official) (acting on behalf of DSU)

has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL.

- (e) The SPIL being submitted has been adopted or otherwise formally approved by the DSU and SILC.
- (f) The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the Chapter 1 programs, as appropriate,² and is available for public inspection.
- (g) The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2001.

² If a State's expenditures earmarked to support the general operation of CILs is equal to or greater than the amount of Federal funds allotted to the State for this purpose, and the State has applied in SPIL Section 8 to administer the Part C, Ch. 1 program pursuant to section 723 of the Act, then the DSU must provide administrative support to the CILs; otherwise, the Secretary administers the CIL program pursuant to section 722 of the Act and the approved SPIL and the DSU is not required to provide administrative support services. §704(c)(2) of the Act)

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON DATE

Guy Woodland _____
NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON PHONE NO.

SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR DATE

Paul K. Leather, Director _____
NAME AND TITLE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR PHONE NO.

SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR DATE

NAME AND TITLE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR PHONE NO.

Section 3: Plan Submittal

3.1 Frequency of Submittal (Sec. 704(a)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.11, 364.20(b))

- (a) This SPIL is for fiscal years 2002 - 2004. A three-year plan must be submitted every three years by July 1 of the year preceding the first fiscal year for which the plan is submitted, (i.e., July 1, 2001).
- (b) Plan amendments are submitted whenever the Secretary determines an amendment to the SPIL is essential during the effective period of the plan; or when there is a significant and relevant change that materially affects the information or the assurances in the plan, the administration or operation of the plan, or the organization, policies, or operations of the DSU or SILC.

3.2 State Plan Development (Sec. 704(a)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(c))

The State plan is jointly developed and signed by the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC or other individual acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council.

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3.3 Public Hearings (Sections 17, 704(m)(6) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(g), (h))

- (a) The State conducts public hearings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations, and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the SPIL prior to its submission to RSA, and on any substantive review or revision of the approved SPIL. The DSU and SILC may meet the public participation requirement by holding the public hearings before a preliminary draft State plan is prepared or by providing a preliminary draft State plan for comment at the public hearings.
- (b) The State establishes and maintains a written description of procedures for conducting public hearings in accordance with the following requirements:
 - (i) The DSU and SILC shall provide appropriate and sufficient notice of the public hearings. Appropriate and sufficient notice means notice provided at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC.
 - (ii) The DSU and SILC shall make reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public hearings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops.
 - (iii) The DSU and SILC shall provide the notices of the public hearings, any written material provided prior to or at the public hearings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats (e.g., Braille, large print, on disk) for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.
 - (iv) At the public hearings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC will identify those provisions in the State plan that are State-imposed requirements. For purposes of this section, a State-imposed requirement includes any State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSU's administration or operation of IL programs under Title VII of the Act, including any rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline, that is beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.
- (c) The State identifies State imposed requirements resulting from the application of any State rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of the programs under

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Chapter 1. Following are descriptions of the State imposed requirements included in the SPIL, if any:

Services provided under a contract with the center, Granite State Independent Living, are subject to financial need and a \$5,000 per year service limit.

3.4 Opportunity for Review and Comment Under State Review Process (34 CFR 76.141-142)

If the SPIL or an amendment to the plan is subject to the State review process, such materials are reviewed, and commented on, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12372. Comments provided through the State review process will be transmitted to RSA.

Section 4: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) (Sec. 705(a) and (b) of the Act)

4.1 Composition of the SILC (Sec. 705(b) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(b))

(1) State the total number of persons on the SILC.	21
(2) State the number of SILC members with disabilities, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4 (b), and not employed by a State agency or a CIL	16
(3) Is a representative of the DSU an ex-officio, member of the SILC?	<u>Y</u> N
(4) State the number of voting members on the SILC.	19
(5) State the number of different disability groups (physical, mental, cognitive, sensory, or multiple) represented by members of the SILC (up to five).	5
(6) Is a CIL director chosen by CIL directors within the State appointed to the SILC?	<u>Y</u> N
(7) Does the SILC include representatives from other State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.	<u>Y</u> N
(8) Does the council have a voting membership that is knowledgeable about CILs and IL services?	<u>Y</u> N
(9) Do Council members provide statewide representation?	<u>Y</u> N
(10) Is the Council Chairperson elected from among the voting members of the Council by the voting members of the Council or the Governor, pursuant to section 705(b)(5) of the Act?	<u>Y</u> N

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4.2 Placement of the SILC (Sec. 705(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(a)(2))

The SILC is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the DSU, and is independent of the DSU and all other State agencies. Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC:

The SILC is housed in the Governor's Commission on Disability under an agreement with the DSU that includes a part time staff person and support services.

4.3 Plan for Provision of Resources to the SILC (SILC Budget) Sec. 705(e) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(i))

- (a) In conjunction with the DSU, the SILC will prepare a Resource Plan Attachment 2 (SILC Budget) for the provision of resources, cash or in-kind, including staff and personnel, rent, supplies, telephone expenses, travel, and other expenses (e.g., child care, personal assistance services, and compensation to a member of the SILC, if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment, for each day the member is engaged in performing SILC duties) that will be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC during the term of the SPIL.
- (b) The SILC will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the SILC Budget.
- (c) No conditions or requirements are included in the SILC Budget that will compromise the independence of the SILC.
- (d) While assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties under the SPIL, staff and other personnel assigned to the SILC under the SILC Budget will not be assigned duties by the DSU or other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

Attachment 2: Plan for the Provision of Resources to the SILC (SILC Budget)
(34 FR 364.21(i) and (j))

The proposed projected budget for the fiscal years 2002 through 2004 is as follows:

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	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Staff Salaries	\$46,463	\$51,109	\$56,220
Administrator (20%)			
Word Processor (20%)			
Administrative Assistant (50%)			
Office Space and Supplies			
Meetings (5 at \$1,200 each)	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$7,200
Room rental			
Transportation			
Personal Care Attendants			
Interpreters			
Lunches			
Training/Conferences	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Technological Services and Support	\$30,000		
Coordination/Facilitation		\$30,000	\$30,000
Total Projected Costs	\$102,463	\$107,709	\$113,420

The New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council is housed at the Governor's Commission on Disability through a contract that includes office space, supplies/telephone and a part-time administrative assistant who supports the SILC. The Designated State Unit has an administrator who provides support to the SILC at 20% and maintains a word processor at 20%, who keeps books on contracts. The Designated State Unit contracts with the only center for independent living to arrange for and support Council member participation in training and conferences. Salaries for the Administrator, word processor, and administrative assistant are supported under Title VII, Part B, as are the contracts for training, attendance at conferences and technological services and support. As noted in Attachment 1, the Council plans to support costs to provide internet and e-mail services to ensure universal access and internet training opportunities among members during the first year of the SPIL. In subsequent years the Council plans to provide coordination and facilitation services through a contract to achieve other objectives as noted in Attachment 1.

The Designated State Unit provides access services for all members of the State Rehabilitation

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Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council. This includes providing interpreters, readers, CART, personal attendant care services, accessible transportation, lunches, and facility rental. This service, which costs approximately \$6,000 per year for each council, is budgeted for

the next three years at slight increases. The balance of the resources to support the SILC are under Title VII, Part B grant and the state match.

Any balances remaining in the first year budget will be combined in the second year to further the goals and objectives of the SILC.

Section 5: Designation and Responsibilities of the State Unit(s)

5.1 Designation (Sec. 704(c) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The State unit(s) designated to receive, account for, and disburse funds, and provide administrative support services is (are):

New Hampshire Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation

5.2 DSU Responsibilities under the SPIL (Sec. 704 (c) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The DSU:

- (a) Receives, accounts for, and disburses funds received by the State under Chapter 1 in accordance with the SPIL;
- (b) Provides administrative support services for the part B State IL services (SILS) program and the part C, Chapter. 1, CIL program in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723 of the Act;
- (c) Keeps such records and affords such access to such records as the Secretary finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; and
- (d) Submits the SPIL and such additional information or provides such assurances as the Secretary may require with respect to the programs.

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Section 6: Staff and Staff Development

6.1 Personnel Administration (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.23)

- (a) The staff of service providers will include personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of CILs.
- (b) To the maximum extent feasible, each service provider will make available personnel able to communicate --
 - (1) With individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tape, and who apply for or receive IL services under the SPIL; and
 - (2) In the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under the SPIL.

6.2 Personnel Development (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.24)

The State assures that service providers will establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development program will emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of the IL philosophy.

6.3 Affirmative Action (Sec. 704(m)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.31)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

6.4 Nondiscrimination (34 CFR 76.500)

No individual will, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under this SPIL.

Section 7: Financial Administration

7.1 General Provisions (Sec. 704(m)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.34)

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All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will adopt such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds paid to the State under Chapter 1.

7.2 Source of State Funds (Sections 712(b)(2) and 7(7)(C) of the Act; 34 CFR 365.12, .13 and .14, 367.11, .42)

- (a) The one to nine non-Federal share of the cost of any project that receives assistance through an allotment under part B, Chapter 1 will be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services, consistent with 34 CFR 365.13, .14, and .15.
- (b) For the purpose of determining the Federal share with respect to the State, expenditures by a political subdivision of the State will, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, be regarded as expenditures by the State.
- (c) The State may not condition the award of a grant, subgrant, or contract under part B, Chapter 1 or a grant, subgrant, or assistance contract under part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the grant or subgrant make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State. Furthermore, an individual, entity, or organization that is a grantee or subgrantee of the State, or has a contract with the State, may not condition the award of a subgrant or subcontract under part B, Chapter 1 or part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the subgrant or subcontract make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State or to the grantee or contractor of the State.

7.3 Financial Record Keeping (Sec. 704(m)(4)(A) and (B) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.35)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will:

- (a) Maintain records that fully disclose--
 - (1) the amount and disposition by each recipient of the proceeds of such financial assistance,
 - (2) the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such financial assistance is given or used, and
 - (3) the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources; and
 - (4) compliance with the requirements of Chapter 1 and 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366,

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and 367.

(b) Maintain such other records as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

7.4 Access to Financial Records (Sec. 704(m)(4 & 5) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.37)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will afford access to the Secretary and the Comptroller General or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits and examinations, to all records maintained pursuant to section 7.3 of the SPIL immediately above and any other books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients that are pertinent to the financial assistance received under Chapter 1.

7.5 Financial Reports (Sec. 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.36)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will submit reports with respect to records required in section 7.3 of the SPIL, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

Section 8: State Administration of Part C Program³

³ (a) To meet the requirements in section 723(a)(1)(B) and (2) of the Act, a **§723 State must submit this section of the SPIL for approval each year** subsequent to the first year of approval to administer the Part C, Chapter 1 program.

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NOTE - THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO §723 STATES.

8.1 Funds Earmarked to Support CILs (Sec. 723(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

In the second fiscal year preceding fiscal year 2000, the general operations of CILs in the State were supported by the following amounts of earmarked funds⁴:

<u>State Funds</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Federal Allotment</u>	<u>0</u>
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8.2 State Applies to Administer Part C Program (Sections 704(h) and 723 of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

The director of the DSU hereby applies to award grants or assistance contracts to eligible agencies in the State that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act. The grants are to be made from the funds allotted to the State for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of CILs under part C, Chapter 1.

8.3 State administers funds in compliance with §723 (Sec. 704(h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32, .35)

(b) Unless the provisions of Attachment 8 are materially changed, submittal of this Section shall not constitute a material revision of the SPIL requiring public hearings or State review under SPIL Section 3.

⁴ The amount of State funds earmarked by a State to support the general operation of centers does not include: (1) Federal funds used for the general operation of centers; (2) State funds used to purchase services from a CIL, including State funds used for grants or contracts for personal assistance or skills training; (3) State attendant care funds; (4) Social Security Administration reimbursement funds; or (5) funds used to support an entity that does not meet the definition of a CIL in section 702 of the Act, e.g. funds used to support a single disability (If a State or outlying area is operating a CIL pursuant to section 724 of the Act, the funds used to support this CIL can be considered "earmarked" for purposes of section 723(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Act.) or residential facility cannot be counted as earmarked funds.

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- (a) If Section 8.2 is answered in the affirmative, the director of the DSU awards grants or assistance contracts under section 723 of the Act to any eligible agency that was awarded a grant under part C, Chapter 1 on September 30, 1993, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act or the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC, or other individual designated by the SILC to act on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, jointly agree to another order of priorities.

- (b) The State assures that any assistance contracts issued to eligible agencies will not add any requirements, terms, or conditions to the assistance contract other than those that would be permitted if the assistance contract were a subgrant consistent with grants issued by RSA under section 722 of the Act.

- (c) In administering the part C, Chapter 1 program, the State will not enter into any procurement contracts with CILs to carry out section 723 of the Act.

8.4 Monitoring and Oversight. (§§704(h), 723(g) and (h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.38)

The State assures that periodic and on-site compliance reviews will be conducted to determine CIL compliance with section 725 of the Act as described in Attachment 3.

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Attachment 4 describes the policies, practices, and procedures, which comply with section 723 of the Act, that the State utilizes for awarding continuation and new grants.

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Section 9: Information on Use of Part B, Chapter 1 Funds

9.1 Use of §711 funds in support of §713 purposes (Sec. 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 365.1)

Part B Funds are to be used only for any one or more of the following purposes (all optional):	Directly by DSU	Grant/Contract	Dollar Amt.
(a) Fund the resource plan for SILC (SPIL Section 4).	<u>Y</u> N	<u>Y</u> N	103,000
(b) Provide IL services to individuals with significant Disabilities	Y N	<u>Y</u> N	300,000
(c) Demonstrate ways to expand and improve IL services.	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	
(d) Support the general operation of CILs.	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	
(e) Support activities to increase capacity of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing IL services.	<u>Y</u> N	Y <u>N</u>	0
(f) Conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policy makers to enhance IL services.	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	
(g) Train individuals with significant disabilities, individuals providing services to individuals with significant disabilities, and other persons regarding IL philosophy.	<u>Y</u> N	Y <u>N</u>	50,000
(h) Provide outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.	<u>Y</u> N	Y <u>N</u>	0

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Attachment 1: Goals, Missions, and Objectives

The Statewide Independent Living Council had two facilitated retreats to establish goals for the State Plan for Independent Living. During the retreats the council also identified specific activities to achieve the goals and priority statements.

Goal 1: SILC will determine unmet independent living needs in the state and ascertain if current programs are working.

Activities:

- A. SILC will systematically gather information during year 1 of the SPIL to determine if current programs are working.
- B. SILC will collaborate with the Center during year 1 to develop a plan for the incorporation of any changes to current programs (comments from the public will be included in plan development).
- C. SILC will submit any recommended changes in the SPIL to the Rehabilitation Services Administration for approval.
- D. SILC will incorporate all approved program changes in year 2.
- E. SILC will assess whether the programs in years 2 and 3 are meeting the needs of persons with significant disabilities.

Goal 2: SILC will develop the next 3 year State Plan for Independent Living that will cover the fiscal years 2005, 2006, 2007.

Goal 3: SILC will determine in year 1 if it wishes to continue its current requirement that contracts be made with organizations that are consumer-controlled.

Goal 4: A statewide information network will be established to disseminate information about SILC's mission and philosophy and issues of importance to individuals with significant disabilities.

Activities:

- A. All members of SILC will be provided access to e-mail in year 1.
- B. A person with a disability will be hired to coordinate the information network and will be employed by an entity outside of the service delivery system (this individual will be referred to as the "coordinator").
 1. All activities relative to establishing the "coordinator" position will be completed in year 1.
 2. The "coordinator" will be hired in year 2 (or sooner if circumstances permit).
- C. The "coordinator" will assist SILC and other stakeholders in developing a plan

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during year 2 for the development and implementation of a statewide information-sharing network that will include the priorities for the network.

- D. The network will be organized and fully operational in year 2.
- E. SILC will measure the network's effectiveness in disseminating information and meeting the needs of its stakeholders in year 3 by conducting surveys and individual and group interviews.

Goal 5: To provide technical assistance to organizations that support people with disabilities.

Goal 6: To establish the SILC as a voice for people with disabilities in New Hampshire.

Activities:

- A. Increase participation of SILC in activities that effect the lives of people with disabilities by improving access to information and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Goal 7: To explore revenue enhancement of the activities currently identified in the State Plan.

Activities:

- A. Hire a "coordinator" who will have the responsibility for identifying what resource options might be available to support services and activities outlined in the SPIL and promote the priorities developed by SILC.

Priority Statement for the State Plan for Independent Living

SILC will advocate on behalf of people with disabilities to have equal access to and inclusion in all activities available to people without disabilities.

Objectives:

Increase community awareness about the needs of people with disabilities.

- A. Improved physical accessibility in the community.
- B. Outreach activities to increase the knowledge of people with disabilities about the supports and services that are available to them.

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- C. Continued linkages with business and industry about the abilities of people with disabilities to improve employment opportunities.

Increase transportation options available to people with disabilities

- A. Advocate for increased funding for transportation.
- B. Engage in advocacy efforts on behalf of people with disabilities within state and local transportation networks.
- C. Promote coordinated transportation systems that maximizes the capacity of current public systems.

Ensure that services and supports are provided in a culturally competent manner.

Work to integrate recreational and social activities to foster relationships and understanding between people with and people without disabilities.

Increase education in schools (students and faculty) and community about people with disabilities to eliminate fear and increase understanding.

Advocate for the provision of employment supports that are tailored to the unique needs of individuals with specific disabilities.

Seek to provide services in a manner that offers choice of provider and enhances natural supports.

Integrate choice into who provides supports and services to people with disabilities.

Activities:

- A. Maintenance of current programs (direct services) to ensure that those individuals receiving services continue to receive services. A review of the current programs will be undertaken by SILC to assure the needs of people with disabilities are being met and make recommendations for change.
- B. Development of a statewide information-sharing network is seen as the key component to furthering the priorities set above. Enhanced communication among people with disabilities, other stakeholders, and advocates will lead to increased participation in activities that will promote the needs of people with disabilities. It is this foundation that will support the efforts of SILC to make the priorities a reality.
- C. The current resource plan for SILC will be maintained (administration, SILC

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meetings support, and conferences/training) in order to appropriately support the activities and members of SILC.

Unanticipated Funding

Should unanticipated revenues become available to the SILC, the allocation of said funds shall be subject to the review and vote of the SILC membership in consultation with the state agency.

The Chapter 2 program, Sight Services for Independent Living identified two major goals:

To provide timely and relevant independent living services which would allow older blind individuals to maintain active lives in their own residences and communities.

To improve public understanding regarding independent living needs of this population.

The following activities will occur in order to achieve the stated goals:

1. Determine appropriate location of SSIL support groups throughout the state by conducting an analysis of need in each region. Explore the possibility of expanding in high volume areas, combining lower incidence regions and identifying new geographic region that do not currently have an SSIL support group.
2. Identify the regions that require core curriculum intervention based on new participant's needs. Provide a comprehensive array of services to the target population.
3. Increase the number of peer counselors by 40% over the next five (5) years.
4. Incorporate an expanded role for the peer counselors into the instructional sessions.
5. Conduct ten (10) educational sessions for families over the next five (5) years
6. Establish a Transportation Resource Guide.
7. Conduct outreach efforts to increase access for older blind individuals to services. Outreach efforts will also be targeted to traditionally underrepresented minority groups through collaborative efforts with the New Hampshire Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Cultural Diversity Initiative Committee.
8. Increase public awareness of the challenges of older blind individuals through various mediums such as presentations, press releases, human-interest stories, and brochures.
9. Develop and link program participants with self-sustaining natural supports.

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10. Utilize the evaluation tools (in compliance with federal standards) to assess the performance of the program in meeting stated goals, and mission of the project.
11. Build close collaboration with existing networks.

Section 10: Outreach (Sections 704(l) and 713(7) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.32)

The State reaches out to populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations, that are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under Chapter 1.

Attachment 1: Outreach to Unserved or Underserved Populations and Minority Groups

The current population of the state is somewhat over 1.2 million, of which over 50% reside in the two southern counties of Rockingham and Hillsborough. Rockingham is also the fastest growing county in the state. Therefore, over half of the population is concentrated in less than 20% of the area of the state. Much of the balance of the state is rural, and density decreases significantly in the three northern counties of Coos, Grafton, and Carroll, where only 13% of the population resides.

New Hampshire's population is currently 97.0 percent white. The second race is Asian at 1.6 and the third is Black or African American at 1.0. While minority populations are decidedly small, they are growing rapidly and outreach continues to address this reality. Granite State Independent Living, the primary contractor under Title VII, Part B, recently hired a full time outreach coordinator. Plans for the next fiscal year include the following:

Hold presentations and in-service training to IDEAS, ServiceLinks, schools, ethnic Community centers, and information and referral organizations throughout the state.

Develop and provide fact sheets to give to medical offices/public when they contact Interpreter Referral on how to hire interpreters and provide effective communication.

Work with the Governor's Commission on Disability to host the Legislative Awareness Day.

Continue to serve on the VSA Cultural Access Committee, supporting their goal to evaluate and make accessible, both physically and programmatically, 300 cultural facilities throughout NH.

Continue to redesign the GSIL web page with additional links to other services

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Available in NH and the United States for people with disabilities.

For populations where English is a second language GSIL will secure the services of a qualified interpreter to assist in any presentation or communication.

As noted earlier, one of the goals of the SILC is to establish its own web page, which will be another access point for persons with disabilities.

Section 11: Extent and Scope of IL Services (Sections 7(30), 704(e) and 713(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.43)

- (a) Attachment 1 describes all IL services to be provided under the SPIL to meet the objectives in Section 10.
- (b) The State provides the following IL core services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities:
 - (1) Information and referral;
 - (2) IL skills training;
 - (3) Peer counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling); and
 - (4) Individual and systems advocacy,
- (c) The IL core services may be provided directly by the DSU, or through grant or contract. While the State is required to provide these services, it may fund the services using funds from any source, e.g., part B or part C, Chapter 1, State funds, or other funds.
- (d) In addition, the State provides the following IL services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities⁵:
 - (1) ___ Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services;

⁵ Insert an "X" or check mark for each IL service that will be made available. It is not necessary to insert any projection of numbers of consumers to be served.

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- (2) Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities);
- (3) Rehabilitation technology;
- (4) Mobility training;
- (5) Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services;
- (6) Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services;
- (7) Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services;
- (8) Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act;
- (9) Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities;
- (10) Supported living;
- (11) Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation;
- (12) Physical rehabilitation;
- (13) Therapeutic treatment;
- (14) Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices;
- (15) Individual and group social and recreational services;
- (16) Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals

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with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options;

- (17) ___ Services for children with significant disabilities;
- (18) X Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities;
- (19) ___ Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities assisted under this Act for similar services in the future;
- (20) ___ Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities; and
- (21) ___ Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Attachment 1: Scope of and Arrangement for IL Services

Information and Referral, Skills Training, Advocacy, and Peer Support Counseling are routinely provided by the only center for independent living, Granite State Independent Living. Services such as sign language interpreters; personal care attendant services; transportation; services related to securing housing or shelter; recreation opportunities; consumer information services; education and training; 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; and community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities necessary for living in the community.

The Chapter 2 program, Sight Services for Independent Living, provides the following services to individuals who aged 55 and older who are blind or visually impaired: rehabilitation teaching, low vision screening and training, orientation and mobility training, peer counseling, and information and referral. The intent is to enhance the lives of persons who live independently through the provision of timely professional services, individual community integration, peer support and empowerment.

The state independent living program, through a contract with the only center for independent living, Granite State Independent Living, has been providing the following services to individuals who are found eligible by center staff:

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Housing: Limited to home modifications to include ramps and modifications to an entry. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

Rehabilitation Technology: To facilitate the acquisition of other services. Subject to financial need and application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

Mobility Training: Orientation services will be provided to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, who have already had orientation and mobility training, but who might need additional orientation, such as when someone moves to a new location. Subject to the application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

Interpreter Services: For individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired to facilitate access to other services. CART services will also be available to persons who are deaf or hearing impaired who prefer this service over interpreting. Subject to application of comparable benefits and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

Transportation: To facilitate access to other independent living services, accessible transportation will be provided and also transportation to individuals who cannot drive, but who cannot utilize traditional accessible transportation. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

Prosthesis and other Appliances and Devices: Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

In addition to these services the center has been providing case management services that include eligibility determination, plan development and monitoring, determination of financial need, and exploration of other resources.

Contracts to provide services will be with organizations who are approved Vocational Rehabilitation providers and who are consumer controlled, as evidenced by a governing board that is made up of at least 51% persons with disabilities.

During the next year the SILC will be assessing the independent living needs in the state and evaluating the current service program to determine to what extent it meets the needs of persons with disabilities. The SILC will also be examining the current criteria applied to contractors for services and determine whether the process should be continued or modified.

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Section 12: Eligibility, Records, IL Plans, and Notice of Client Assistance Program

12.1 Eligibility for Receipt of Services (Sections 7(15)(B) and 703 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.51)

- (a) Individuals with significant disabilities are eligible for services provided under the SPIL.
- (b) To be eligible, an individual is one:
 - (1) Who has a significant physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory impairment;
 - (2) Whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited; and
 - (3) For whom the delivery of IL services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in employment.

12.2 Consumer Service Record (Sections 704(m)(4)(B), 725(c)(8) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.53)

A consumer service record (CSR) will be maintained for each consumer of services, other than information and referral, which will contain documentation that the consumer is eligible or ineligible for IL services, the information required for the annual performance report under 34 CFR 364.36 and 366.50(h), and an IL plan (ILP) or a waiver as described in SPIL Section 13.3.

12.3 IL Plans (Sec. 704(e) and 725(c)(14) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.52)

The State provides IL services under Chapter 1 to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an ILP mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary.

12.4 Notice about the Client Assistance Program (Sections 20 and 704(m)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.30)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 that provide services to individuals with significant disabilities advise those individuals seeking or receiving IL services about the availability of the Client Assistance Program under section 112 of the Act, the purposes of the services provided under such program, and information on the means of seeking assistance under such program.

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Section 13: Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

13.1 Network Design (Sec. 704(g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(a))

The State has developed a design for the establishment of a statewide network of CILs that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act.

13.2 Unserved and Underserved Areas and Priorities (Sec. 704(g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(b))

(a) The network design:

- (i) identifies unserved and underserved geographic areas of the State; and
- (ii) includes an order of priority for the establishment of CILs in those areas.

Attachment 1: Network of Centers

Technology has significantly influenced thinking around what constitutes a network of centers. In New Hampshire there have been a number of plans that attempted to analyze the population centers and the best ways to bring core services to those populations. We know that the highest concentration of persons with disabilities is in the high density areas, the southern part of the state. We also know that in the low population areas of the state fewer services exist for persons with disabilities. The initial plan for a network of centers had a center in each of the four compass points of the state with the first priority in the northern part of the state and the second in the western part of the state. The only center in the state, GSIL, did establish a satellite center in the northern part of the state when funds became available, and the center has plans to establish another satellite office in the western part of the state (Keene), if and when resources become available. That is certainly in keeping with the present SILC priorities.

As noted earlier, during the next year the SILC will be reviewing how services are delivered and requirements of providers, while evaluating the needs of persons with disabilities in the state. The SILC expects that this process will result in a new recommendation regarding a center network and priority, but for the present, the next priority continues to be the western part of the state including Keene. Once that is established, attention needs to focus on the southeastern part of the state, which has the fastest growing population. The next logical area to establish a center or satellite is somewhere among the cities of Salem, Nashua, and Manchester, since that is easily the highest population concentration.

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Section 14: Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination (Sections 704(I-k) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.26 and .27)

- (a) The State takes steps that maximize the communication, cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among --
 - (1) the SILS program, the SILC and CILs; and
 - (2) the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities, including Indian Tribal Councils, determined to be appropriate by the SILC.
- (b) The State ensures that services funded under Chapter 1 will complement and be coordinated with other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the IL program for older individuals who are blind funded under Chapter 2 of Title VII.
- (b) The State coordinates Federal and State funding for CILs and SILS.

Attachment 1: Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

A good working relationship exists among the Designated State Unit, the Statewide Independent Living Council, and the only Center for Independent Living in the state, Granite State Independent Living. The SILC has had two social activities with the board of the center, and more recently, the center hosted and participated in training for new council members. Additional orientation and training will include the center during the next fiscal year. The center is well-represented on the council with three board members and the executive director. The center has been the contractor for services provided under the state independent living program for several years, and a staff person attends each meeting to report on progress. The executive director of the center and the chair of the council have both met with the director of the Designated State Unit. Future meetings are planned.

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Section 15: Evaluation Plan (Sec. 704(n) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.38)

- (a) The State establishes a method for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the SPIL:
 - (1) In meeting the State's objectives and timelines for meeting those objectives;
 - (2) In the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities; and
 - (3) In meeting the objectives established in Section 9 of the SPIL.
- (b) The State agrees to annually submit the results of DSU and SILC evaluation activities, including the most recent evaluation of Title VII consumer satisfaction, with the annual performance report to RSA.

Attachment 3: Evaluation Plan (34 CFR 364.21(g) and 364.38)

The priority statement of the SILC for the current SPIL is as follows: SILC will advocate on behalf of people with disabilities to have equal access to and inclusion in all activities available to people without disabilities. All the objectives in the plan are in furtherance to this priority. The first activity in advocating for equal access and inclusion is to insure that every member of the SILC has access to necessary information and other members of the SILC to facilitate individual growth and maintain immediate contact with the membership. Once this has been achieved through the provision of computers and necessary training and access to the internet, the membership will attempt to broaden the network to include other entities that further the advocacy goals. By the end of the first year of the SPIL all members will have

access to the internet and e-mail. As soon thereafter as is practical a statewide information-sharing network will be developed.

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At each of the four executive committee meetings the major goals and activities of the SPIL will be reviewed. Adjustments will be made based on progress and available resources.

A second activity in support of the priority statement is to review the current programs that assist persons with disabilities to assure that the needs of people with disabilities are being met. This activity will include an expanded review of the services provided under contract with the only center for independent living. In the past the Council has monitored the services provided under contract through quarterly reports from the contractor. This process will continue but the review will also include an evaluation of costs for services, numbers served, quality of the services received, and alternative methods to provide the same service(s). The SILC will also review current contracts and the results of follow-up surveys. Additionally, there will be discussions with the contractor. By the end of the first year of the SPIL the Council will determine whether the current method of providing services to individuals with disabilities is the best expenditure of funds.

On a quarterly basis the Council will review expenditures and outcomes through reports from the contractor and the DSU. The SILC will also look at other potential service providers, using the same criteria.

The center for independent living that provides Title VII, Part B services under contract with the SILC was asked to break down future follow-up surveys by specific services and by county. They have agreed to do this as well as adding a section to the survey to determine existing services in each community and to what extent the services are used. In connection with transportation, one of the most-used services under Title VII, Part B, individuals will be asked about availability of public and/or private transportation, its accessibility, affordability, and availability. The center will also survey individuals who have exited the service program to determine their assessment of services received. Also, the center will be sending out a survey instrument with each information packet that is mailed to consumers and the public. The data received from each of the surveys will be shared as a part of the reports from the center to the SILC and used in the evaluation of the service provider.

In planning for the development of the SPIL the SILC asked for input by the center, inviting a representative to address the council. This occurred on November 1, 2000 and was followed with a letter reaffirming the concerns of the CIL. The concerns noted were as follows:

1. Incorporate in the annual training budget, specific leadership training for members.

In addition to incorporating this concept in the current plan, the council contracted a motivational speaker during the current year for all members.

2. Increase funding support to new consumer controlled organizations to assist them in building effective consumer organizations.

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Inherent in the current goals and activities is the intent to review current providers and methods of providing services, as well as customer choice.

3. Work toward coordination and unification of state plans from other agencies that support persons with disabilities.

The SPIL seeks to first connect its own members, then to expand the network to other entities, which will certainly have direct impact with other organizations providing services to persons with disabilities.

The SILC made a significant effort to invite the public for comments on the SPIL. In addition to publishing the public hearing in the only statewide newspaper, the announcement was sent to nearly 80 organizations who provide services to or represent persons with disabilities, published in the CIL newsletter and described in a well-known weekly column for people with disabilities. The announcement was also made several times on public radio. Individuals were invited to appear in person between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM or 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM, telephone to an 800 number, or e-mail comments. A summary of goals and activities was also offered to anyone requesting same. In spite of the efforts to attract public comment no comments were received.

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