

**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:

FISCAL YEARS:

Effective Date: October 1, 2020

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Executive Summary

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) 2021 – 2023 was developed by the Committee of State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) comprise of the following members: Chairperson and members of P.R. SILC, Directors of Independent Living Centers, (2) representatives of CIL, (1) representative of the Vocational Administration Rehabilitation the Designated State Entity and a consultant in strategic planning. Different methods to collect information were used to promote participation in different areas:

1. Needs service assessment for independent living, was conducted before starting drafting the SPIL.
2. Visits, interviews, consultation and questionnaires to the CIL members.
3. Statistical data from the *US Census Bureau* (2017), Cornell University, Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Disability Statistics and Demographics, etc.
4. Ten (10) formal meetings of the SPIL committee.
5. Technical assistance through the “Independent Living Research Utilization” (ILRU).
6. Utilization guide provided by the “Administration for Community Living” (ACL).
7. Meeting with the council members, Board of Directors and directors of the CILs, and representatives from the Designated State Entity with the objective of presenting the SPIL draft, and to collect their input before beginning the public hearing process.

Finally, due to the emergency caused by COVID-19 pandemic, the public hearing process was done virtually through the webpage of the State Council of Independent Living. The announcement was distributed through electronic means to approximately (300) contacts and representatives of the following categories: Centers for Independent Living, Community Base Organizations, Municipalities, Public and Private Agencies, Professional Entities and persons from the community. To collect the public opinion, a survey was developed through Survey Monkey. Also, the announcement was published through social media, and a radio program with topics related to the population with disabilities. The Centers for Independent Living collaborated with the process carrying out focus groups of employees and consumers through virtual application meetings. A total of (110) individuals representing different areas including consumers and individuals with disabilities participated and stated their public comments to the State Plan.

The SPIL Committee, considered in designing the strategies at the state level of the independent living services in Puerto Rico, all of the collected information and identified the following priority areas: reengineering and enhancing of the Independent Living Network, technology, advocacy for systems change and intersectionality. Taking into consideration these areas, the goals, objectives, and activities were developed (section 1). The plan for the evaluation of SPIL compliance, is focused on bringing systemic changes in individuals and social systems. It also contains the methodology of data collecting, including surveys to measure consumer’s satisfaction level, the CIL’s Program Performance Report, and forums to collect information about the population with disabilities.

The financial plan includes the Federal and State awards that will be used for the general operation of CILs, the independent living services, the resources plan of the P.R. SILC, and for the Designated State Entity duties. The CARES Act funds were included and are expected to have an impact at state level through a collaborative agreement among the CILs and the service regions. A formula was developed and applied for the awarding and distribution of funds (Part B) for the independent living service regions using the following criteria: available funds, the percentage of population with disabilities, geographic extension, and a percentage for administrative expenditures.

In section 2, the types of services that will be offered are identified as well as a map of the service areas. The Independent Living Network will increase its efforts for collaborating and coordinating with other community base programs, public and private agencies that promote access to the community in areas such as housing, transportation, employment, and other supporting services to facilitate the inclusion of the population with disabilities.

Two important aspects of the State Plan for Independent Living 2021 – 2023, are the redesigning the Independent Living Network, establishing ten (10) service regions, and two (2) innovative independent living projects. In section 3, we outline the ten (10) reconfigured regions as well as the service areas where the innovative projects will be located. In determining the innovative projects services areas, the following was taken into consideration: for the personal assistants project we looked at the level of poverty of the population with disabilities, for the leadership and empowering project of youth with disabilities, the geographic areas were determined based on the areas with a greater percentage of persons in the age category of 18-24 years old.

The last sections, (4 – 8) establish the commitment with complying with the applicable legal and regulatory requirements of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration as the Designated State Entity and the State Council for Independent Living of Puerto Rico. The State Plan for Independent Living 2021- 2023 is signed in its section 9 by the P.R. SILC President, the two directors for Centers of Independent Living in Puerto Rico, and the DSE administration. The signers are in agreement with the content of the plan and authorize sending it to the Administration for Community Living, US Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 Mission:

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL.

Promoting independent living life philosophy for developing maximum leadership, empowerment, independence, productivity, and inclusion of the population with disabilities to transform our society.

1.2 Goals:

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

GOAL - I

The Independent Living Network (ILN) will promote and support the independent living philosophy by strengthening and optimizing programmatic, operational, and resource development areas.

GOAL - II

The Independent Living Network (ILN) will obtain and validate information of the different situations that affect individuals with disabilities in Puerto Rico to achieve their inclusion, participation, and community living.

GOAL - III

The individuals with disabilities will have access to community services for maximizing their independence, empowerment, and self-determination.

GOAL - IV

The individuals with disabilities that belong to minority groups or from unserved or underserved geographic areas, will have access to independent living services.

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	The Independent Living Network (ILN) will promote and support the independent living philosophy by strengthening and optimizing programmatic, operational, and resource development areas.						
OBJECTIVE- 1.1	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will uniform the service provision model of independent living in Puerto Rico to ensure its accessibility, efficiency, and effectiveness.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.1.1. The Independent Living Network (ILN) will revise, evaluate, and develop a manual to serve as a uniform guide for providing independent living services.	Collaboration: participation in meetings among the members of the ILN.	100% of the CILs have a representative that participates at the meetings.	SILC	CILs, VRA, ILRU	Island wide	4th. Quarter 2021	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B
	Registry: agendas, reports, (minutes) of the meetings.	8 meetings in the first year and 100% is documented in the minutes.					
	Manual: operational and programmatic guide.	One (1) manual of independent living, approved by 51% of the network members.					
1.1.2 The Independent Living Network will provide trainings to the board members, directors, human resources, and volunteers regarding the content of the uniform guide, methodology and innovative techniques in service provision among other topics.	Needs assessment: respond to a technical assistance survey.	SILC, CILs and VRA will participate of the survey, and at least 85% of the representatives respond to the survey.	SILC VRA	CILs	Island wide	2022-2023	
	Virtual and face-to-face training calendar.	One (1) annual training calendar, 100% is distributed among its members and 90% of the trainings are provided.					

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.1.2 The Independent Living Network will provide trainings to the board members, directors, human resources, and volunteers regarding the content of the uniform guide, methodology and innovative techniques in service provision among other topics.	ILN members participation.	90% of members attend the trainings.	SILC VRA	CILs	Island wide	2022-2023	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B
	Training evaluation.	95% of participants answer the evaluation.					
	Level of knowledge acquired: pre – post- test.	Participants respond to the tests, and at least 50% increase in the level of knowledge acquired.					
1.1.3 The Independent Living Network will establish strategies for the development of abilities that will promote culture, identity, pride, and acknowledge- ment of the independent living philosophy and its contribution to society.	Number of awareness events through different media: radio, television, webpages, videos, photos, social media, and public presentations.	Eight (8) awareness events per year for each CIL and it's regions, in which the consumers and individuals with disabilities participate and are the protagonists; and 30% yearly increase on face to face or virtual visits to the CILs and regions.	CILs	SILC	Metro North South East East-Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.1.3 The Independent Living Network will establish strategies for the development of abilities that will promote culture, identity, pride, and acknowledgement of the independent living philosophy and its contribution to society.	Advocacy activities: Independent Living Week celebration.	ILN each year identifies one (1) area that limits the independence level of the individuals with disabilities for living in community and develops one (1) advocacy activity that would result in the formulation of public policy.	CILs	SILC	Metro North South East East-Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
	Participation level of individuals with disabilities who are leaders in the community.	20% increase of individuals with disabilities that participate in advocacy activities annually.					
	Participation level of ONGs related with individuals with disabilities.	10% increase of ONGs that collaborate in advocacy activities annually.		Individuals Community Organizations			
	Consumers level of knowledge about independent living philosophy.	In four (4) occasions during the year 100% of the CILs and it's regions provide orientation to new consumers through a peer group about the history of independent living philosophy.		SILC			

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.1.3 The Independent Living Network will establish strategies for the development of abilities that will promote culture, identity, pride, and acknowledgement of the independent living philosophy and its contribution to society.		At least 50% increase in the level of knowledge acquired.	CILs		Metro North South	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
	ILN concept and design.	100% of the ILN promotes the independent living culture in their concept and physical facilities (accessibility, posters, photos, videos, documentaries, etc.), and 70% of those that participate in the satisfaction survey show knowledge about the CILs.	CILs	SILC	East East-Central		
1.1.4 The Independent Living Network will execute and monitor the progress of the State Plan 2021-2023 through periodic reports, monitoring, and adjustments during its implementation.	Instrument for collecting data and monitoring the SPIL's progress.	100% of the ILN will receive the instrument and the instructions for collecting data, monitoring progress, and evaluating compliance level.	SILC VRA	CILs Independent Living Projects.	Island wide	2021-2023	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.1.4 The Independent Living Network will execute and monitor the progress of the State Plan 2021-2023 through periodic reports, monitoring, and adjustments during its implementation.	SPIL progress reports.	100% of the ILN submits quarterly reports to the SILC and four (4) meetings will be carried out to discuss results.	SILC VRA	CILs Independent Living Projects	Island wide	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART B TITTLE I
	Monitoring SPIL progress and compliance level.	A minimum of 25% quarterly-progress and corrective actions during its implementation.					
	Annual report meeting on progress and accomplishment made on SPILs goals and objectives.	100% of CILs directors, the VRA and independent living project representatives participate in this annual meeting. They will give an oral report to the SPIL Committee.	SILC VRA	CILs Independent Living Projects			
	Monitoring and on site reviews to CILs regions and independent living projects awarded with Part B funds.	VRA reviews the 100% of the CIL's regions and independent living projects (Part B), submits an outcome report and monitors compliance of the corrective action plan.	VRA		East East-Central Northwest Southwest North-Central		

OBJECTIVE - 1.2	During the plan, individuals with disabilities will receive and have access to independent living core and complementary services that support and promote self-determination, empowerment, and community living.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.2.1 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will develop and improve the technological capacity to support the provision of services to the population of individuals with disabilities through the awarding provided by the CARES Act.	Equipment, applications, and technological programs to facilitate and to support the provision of remote services (e.g. consumers services records based on the web or cloud, laptops computers, cell phones, communications technology)	100% of the CILs acquires the equipment and technological programs for the provision of remote services. 100% of the CILs receives the necessary trainings and as a result the staff and consumers can efficiently use technology and equipment.	CILs	ONGs Universities	Metro North South East East-Central	2021	CARES Act
1.2.2 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will procure a virtual platform to provide independent living services to consumers.	Virtual platform.	Exploring three (3) alternatives for establishing virtual platform and 51% of the CILs and its regions will agree with the selected alternative.	CILs	SILC Universities ONG's	Metro North South East East-Central	2021	CARES Act

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
<p>1.2.2 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will procure a virtual platform to provide independent living services to consumers.</p>	Virtual modules	One (1) pilot module of at least two (2) independent living skills is develop by the CILs and its regions, assuring it complies with the accessibility requirements for all populations.	CILs	SILC Universities, ONG's	Metro North South East East-Central	1st Quarter 2022	CARES Act
	Evaluation of virtual platform and pilot module.	100% of the CILs and its regions and at least five (5) consumers representing different types of disabilities will validate the effectiveness, accessibility, and efficiency of the platform and modules with a minimum of 80% of acceptance and satisfaction.	CILs	SILC			

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
<p>1.2.3 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will provide independent living services in compliance with the Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.</p>	<p>Core services: Information and referral. Independent living skills training. Peer support. Advocacy (individual and system). Transition.</p>	<p>Number of established goals on the ILP or documented goals, number of accomplished goals and 33.33% of goals compliance per year.</p> <p>Number of individuals with disabilities that requested information from the center and at least 90% use the new resource as a result of information and referral service.</p> <p>Number of consumers that received training in advocacy skills and 80 % participate of at least two (2) advocacy activities.</p> <p>Two (2) activities (surveys, focus groups, etc) annually to identify the main barriers in the community and to introduce the difficulties on the public agenda.</p>	CILs	SILC VRA	Metro South North East East-Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
<p>1.2.3 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will provide independent living services in compliance with the Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.</p>	<p>Core services: Information and referral. Independent living skills training. Peer support. Advocacy (individual and system). Transition.</p>	<p>Number of consumers institutionalized annually, 80% with a transition plan in progress and 20% are placed in community-based residences with the necessary support and services by 2023.</p> <hr/> <p>Number of consumers at risk of entering institutions, and 85% remain in the community.</p> <hr/> <p>Ten (10) youth consumers per year and per region that receive transition services to postsecondary life and 85% will be able to identify and explain at least one (1) specific way they are now more independent than before receiving the independent living services.</p>	CIL	SILC VRA	Metro South North East East - Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.2.3 The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will provide independent living services in compliance with the Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.	Number of new consumers per year and number of consumers per municipalities.	30% of new consumers each year and 100% of the municipalities have access to independent living services.	CILs	SILC VRA	Metro	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
					South		
				North			
				East			
	Number of consumers that fulfilled their goals in each year, # of goals achieved and the % of consumers that accomplish their goals.	30% of consumers reach at least 33.33% of their goals in each year and 90% of consumers accomplish their established goals in a period no greater than three years.			East-Central		
	Complementary Services	100% of the CILs will offer complementary services established on the state plan and their work plan. The consumers who receive these services increase their level of independence, empowerment, and community supports.		SILC	Metro		TITLE VII: PART C
					North		
					South		
	Annual self-evaluation on compliance.	100% of the CILs will use <i>Compliance Analysis Evaluation Tool with a minimum 95% of compliance with Sec. 725.</i>			Metro		
					North		
					South		

OBJECTIVE - 1.3	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will collaborate, develop and conduct a resources development plan to support the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
1.3.1 The State Council for Independent Living (SILC) will obtain tax-exempt status in order to conduct resources development activities.	State and federal tax exemption.	Apply to obtain the state tax exemption.	SILC	Financial advisors Foundations and organizations	Island wide	4th quarter 2023	Donation
		Apply to obtain the federal tax exemption for non-for-profit organizations.					
1.3.2 The Centers for Independent Living will establish collaborative agreements and will identify funding sources to support the state plan activities.	Proposals and collaborative agreements established that support the state plan.	100% of the CILs establish collaborative agreements and present proposals that support the state plan.	CIL	Private entities, municipalities, universities, other community organizations, etc.	Metro North South	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C
	Fee for Services	100% CILs will explore models for establishing a fee for services system.					
		100% of the CILs will choose one of the modalities of fee for services that will implement in the provision of their services.					

GOAL - 2	The Independent Living Network (ILN) will obtain and validate information of the different circumstances that affect individuals with disabilities in Puerto Rico to achieve their inclusion, participation, and community living.						
OBJECTIVE - 2.1	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the participation of individuals with disabilities for identifying their needs, seeking solutions, and opinions about the available services to the population.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
2.1.1 The State Council for Independent Living will conduct face-to-face and virtual forums for collecting, validating and updating data about individuals with disabilities and the provision of independent living services in Puerto Rico.	Number (#) of independent living forums.	One (1) forum of independent living with the participation of at least 40 individuals with disabilities from all over the island.	SILC	CILs Organizations Municipalities Agencies	Island wide	2022 - 2023	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B
	Needs assessment of independent living and community support services through virtual forums.	One (1) needs assessment of independent living and community support services with the participation of at least 100 individuals with disabilities from all over the island.					
	Reports	(1) publication is distributed among 100% of the CILs and published on the SILC webpage. The data is used in public hearings and other media to promote systems change.					

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
<p>2.1.2 The State Council for Independent Living will develop, distribute and administer accessible instruments for collecting data related to the consumers satisfaction with the independent living services in Puerto Rico.</p>	<p>Consumers satisfaction assessment.</p>	<p>30% of the consumers that have achieved goals of independent living, or CSRs that have been closed respond to the satisfaction survey.</p>	<p>SILC</p>	<p>CILs</p>	<p>Metro South North East East-Central</p>	<p>2021-2023</p>	<p>TITLE I</p>
		<p>70% individuals surveyed will be able to identify and to explain at least one (1) specific way in which they are more independent, increased their participation in the community, and self-determination after receiving the services.</p>					<p>TITLE VII: PART B</p>

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
<p>2.1.3 The Independent Living Network will publish the data collected from the independent services satisfaction survey and the changes produced at the individual and systemic level in Puerto Rico.</p>	<p>Success stories collected on a documentary, interview, or on press release.</p>	<p>One (1) success story for each CIL, its regions, and independent living projects is published on a documentary, interview, or on press release.</p>	<p>CILs Independent living projects</p>	<p>SILC University</p>	<p>Island wide</p>	<p>2023</p>	<p>TITLE VII: PART C PART B</p>
	<p>Publications</p>	<p>One (1) publication with the findings is distributed annually among 100% of the CIL and is published on the SILC's webpage.</p>	<p>SILC</p>	<p>CILs Independent Living Projects</p>		<p>2021-2023</p>	

GOAL - 3	Individuals with disabilities will have access to services in the community to maximize their independence, empowerment, and self-determination.						
OBJECTIVE - 3.1	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will develop a model to address access to accessible transportation services to individuals with disabilities.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
3.1.1 The State Council for Independent Living will identify the specific transportation needs, and the available resources for each region in P.R.	A survey on accessible transportation per region. Focus groups per region.	One (1) survey on availability of accessible transportation per region, and at least (8) focus groups with a minimum participation of ten (10) individuals with disabilities and representatives of the municipalities per region.	SILC	CIL Municipalities Universities Agencies	Island wide	4th, Quarter Fiscal year 2022	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B
	Report on findings and sharing of results publically.	One (1) publication with the findings is distributed among 100% of the CILs, published on the SILC webpage and distributed among the pertinent municipalities and agencies.					
3.1.2 The Council for Independent Living will explore accessible transportation models that have been successful on different states, especially on rural areas.	Report with recommendations.	At least three (3) models will be analyzed and included in a report along with recommendations considering the needs identified and available resources.		CILs Universities		2nd quarter 2023	

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	period	Budget
3.1.3 The State Council for Independent Living will propose an accessible transportation initiative for individuals with disabilities.	Presentation of a accessible transportation model with possible funding sources, or providing support for its implementation.	A (1) model that applies to most of the regions will be presented with its possible funding sources, and sent to municipalities, organizations and agencies, and at least one (1), of these shows interests in developing a pilot project with a collaborative agreement.	SILC	CIL Municipalities Universities Agencies	Island wide	4th. Quarter 2023	TITLE I TITLE VII: PART B
	Collaborative agreement.						
3.1.4 The Independent Living Centers and its regions will strive for expanding the accessible transportation services in each region for the population with disabilities.	Advocacy activities	At least, one (1) annual advocacy activity before private service providers and an increase of at least 10% in accessible transportation evidenced by a collaborative agreement.	CIL	Private transportation companies SILC	Metro South North East East-Central	A.F. 2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B

GOAL - 3	Individuals with disabilities will have access to services in the community to maximize their independence, empowerment, and self-determination.						
OBJECTIVE - 3.2	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, and their needs in the municipal and state emergency plans of P.R.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
3.2.1 The Centers for Independent Living and its regions will advocate for the inclusion of individuals with disabilities needs within emergency plans.	Number of training and advocacy activities in the municipalities.	One (1) advocacy activity per year in each region, 33.3% of the municipalities amend their emergency plans to address the needs of the population with disabilities in the year 2023.	CIL	Organizations Municipalities Agencies	Metro South North East East-Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
3.2.2 The Centers for Independent Living and its regions will raise awareness in the community about communication alternatives for individuals with disabilities before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.		One (1) training activity per year per region that would include the personnel of the agencies in charge of emergency management, and a minimum increment of 50% in knowledge.					

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
3.2.2 The Centers for Independent Living and its regions will raise awareness in the community about communication alternatives for individuals with disabilities before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.	Awareness and training activities for the community.	Identification of communities per region where individuals with disabilities live; train one community per year and 100% of these communities will create a emergency plan that supports the PWDs that live within it.	CILs	Organizations Municipalities Agencies	Metro South North Este East Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
3.2.3 The Centers for Independent Living will promote health and safety of their personnel as well as the consumers while providing direct services and activities aimed to cover the needs related to COVID-19.	Purchase of personal protective equipment and materials for protecting consumers and employees while providing services (before, during, and after the pandemic).	100% of the centers and their service regions will acquire personal protective equipment and materials for safety compliance during the provision of direct services to consumers.	CILs		Metro South North East East-Central	2021	CARES Act

GOAL – 4	Individuals with disabilities that belong to a minority group from underserved or unserved geographic areas will have access to the independent living services.						
OBJECTIVE - 4.1	During the plan, the Independent Living Network will guide its efforts to reach organizations, individuals, and communities that are underserved or unserved to facilitate access to independent living services.						
ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
4.1.1 The Centers for Independent Living and its regions will identify and will carry out approaches for establishing collaborations with organizations and communities that service individuals with disabilities that are underserved or unserved and that are part of minority groups such as immigrants, individuals from the LGBTTIQ community.	Number of activities developed, service areas impacted, established collaborative agreements, and population impacted.	An annual collaborative agreement with two organizations that represent LGBTTIQ and immigrant communities for exchanging knowledge and access to community and independent living services.	CILs	ONGs SILC	Island wide	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART C PART B
4.1.2 The Independent Living Network will develop an exploratory project for leadership, empowerment and advocacy for youth with disabilities in the identified geographic areas.	# youth participating of the project, % that acquire the skills, % that participate in the forums and advocacy activities, % that join to boards, councils, and committees.	15 youth per region, 80% acquire leadership, empowerment and advocacy skills, 75% participate in international conferences, forums and advocacy activities, 40% become part of boards, councils, and committees.	Independent Living Project	CILs VRA ONGs University and Municipalities	North-west South-west North-Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART B

ACTIVITIES	Indicators	Compliance Level	Leader	Collaborator	Area	Period	Budget
4.1.3 The Independent Living Network will develop an exploratory project of personal assistance in the identified geographic areas.	#Personal assistants trained, # trained consumers in self-care direction, # of consumers that receive support services in day to day activities.	20 individuals trained as personal assistants, 30 consumers trained in self-care, 25 consumers receive services, and 100% increase the level of independence and community participation.	Independent Living Project	CILs VRA ONGs Universities	South-east Central	2021-2023	TITLE VII: PART B

The purpose of Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Rehabilitacion Act, as amended, is to promote the independent living philosophy based on consumer’s control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access and individual and systems advocacy with the purpose of maximizing leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities and promoting their full inclusion in society. While developing the objectives for the SPIL a cross reference was conducted to ensure they are compatible with the Law and its purpose.

The objectives that relate to Goal 1, are meant to promote and support the independent living philosophy for maximizing the independence level that support or promote self-determination, empowerment, and community living.

- 1.1. For the duration of the plan (2021-2023), the Independent Living Network (ILN) will uniform the independent living service model in Puerto Rico to be accessible, efficient, and effective.
- 1.2. For the duration of the plan (2021-2023), individuals with disabilities will receive and have access to core and complementary independent living services that support and promote their self-determination, empowerment and community living.
- 1.3 For the duration of the plan (2021-2023), the Independent Living Network will establish, collaborate, and develop a resource plan to support the implementation of the SPIL.

The objectives that respond to goals 2 and 3, are intended to promote and achieve full inclusion of individuals with disability in society.

2.1 For the duration of the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the participation of individuals with disabilities in identifying their needs, seeking solutions, and providing opinions about the available services for the population.

3.1 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will develop a model to address accessible transportation services to individuals with disabilities.

3.2 During the life of the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their needs in the municipal and state emergency plans in PR.

The objectives of goal four (4) propose to facilitate access to the independent living services to populations and geographic areas that are underserved, while also through exploratory projects that support the leadership, empowerment, and independence of individuals with disabilities.

4.1 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will aim efforts to reach organizations, individuals, and underserved or unserved communities to facilitate access to independent living services.

1.4 Evaluation

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

Timeline	Goals (copy from section 1.2 above)	Objectives (copy from section 1.3 above)	Data to be collected	Data collection method	Organization primarily responsible for data collection (please check as many as apply)	
GOAL I						
4th. quarter 2021	The Independent Living Network	1.1 During the plan, the Independent Living	One (1) independent living manual, % of the network	Document review	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

	(ILN) will promote and support the independent living philosophy empowering and optimizing programmatic, operational, and resources development areas.	Network will uniform the service provision model of independent living in Puerto Rico to ensure its accessibility, efficiency, and effectiveness.	members that approve it.			
4th. quarter 2022 - 2023			Number of trainings about the manual content and % of increment in the knowledge level.	Questionnaire	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
During 2021 - 2023			Number of outreach events on the independent life philosophy and % of increase in face to face or virtual visits to the CIL's.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
During 2021 - 2023			Number of orientations to new consumers and % of the increase in the level of knowledge acquired.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
During 2021 - 2023			Number of advocacy activities, number of barriers identified each year, % of increment of individuals that participate in the advocacy activities, and % of organizations that collaborate.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
During 2021 - 2023			% of the ILN that promote the IL culture in their	Observation	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

			image and physical facilities and increase the % of acknowledgement of the CIL's consumers.	Survey	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
4th. Quarter 2021		1.2 During the plan, individuals with disabilities will receive and have access to independent living core and complementary services that support and promote self-determination, empowerment, and community living.	Number of virtual platforms reviewed for establishing a virtual modality of independent living services and the % of the ILN that are in agreement with the chosen alternative.	Report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			The number of centers that acquire technology and equipment for providing distance services.			
			Number of trainings to consumers and the personnel for using technology and equipment efficiently.			
2nd Quarter 2022			Pilot module developed, number of independent living skills published on the selected platform for testing and evaluating the % of ILN.	Observation	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Questionnaire	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

During 2021 – 2023			Number of individuals with disabilities that requested information from the center, and the % that use the new resource as a result of the information and referral service that they received.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			Number of established goals in the ILP, number of goals achieved by the consumers, and % of achieved goals per year.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Annual report (PPR)		
			Number of consumers that are trained in advocacy skills (individual or system) and % that participates of at least two activities per year.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
		Annual report (PPR)				
			Number of activities carried out annually for identifying or confirming the main barriers/problems in the community that prevent individuals with disabilities from being more independent.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

During 2021 – 2023			And that would be useful in the formulation of public policy.			
			Number of institutionalized consumers annually, % with a transition plan in progress, % that are placed in community housing with the necessary supports up to 2023.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			Number of consumers at risk of being institutionalized, % with ILP or a signed waiver and % that remain living in the community.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			Number of youth consumers per year and per region that participate of transition services to adulthood, % with ILP or a signed waiver and the % that are able to identify and explain at least a specific form in which they are more independent now than before receiving the center's services.	Quarterly report Survey	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

			% of the CILs that offer complementary services and that are linked to the organization's work plan that are aimed to independence level, auto-determination, empowerment, and community living.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			% of new cases each year that receive and have access to core and complementary services from the CIL per region.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Annual report (704)		
			% of consumers that reach the % of their goals each fiscal year and % that reach goals established in the SPIL or with a signed exemption, in a period no greater than 3 years.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Annual report (704)		
			% of the CILs will use Compliance Analysis Evaluation Tool annually to measure level of compliance with a compliance % with section 725.	Annual report	✓	CIL DSE SILC

4 th . quarter 2023		1.3 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will collaborate, develop and conduct a resources development plan to support the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living.	The % of the required documents and obtaining the state's and federal tax exemption up to 2023.	Documents	✓	CIL DSE SILC
4 th . Quarter 2021 – 2023			% of the CILs that establish collaborative agreements and that submit proposal that support the state plan.	Annual report	✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Documents	✓	
4 th . Quarter 2022 - 2023		% of the CILs that explore and choose a model for establishing a fee for services system and establishes it in 2023.	Annual report	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC	
GOAL II						
4th Quarter 2022 - 2023	The Independent Living Network will acknowledge and validate information of different situations that affect individuals with disabilities in Puerto Rico to achieve their inclusion,	2.1 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the participation of individuals with disabilities for identifying their needs, seeking solutions, and opinions about the available	Number of independent Living Forum(s) with the participation of individuals with disabilities and representation of all the island.	Annual report	✓	CIL DSE SILC
4th Quarter 2022			Number of surveys and the participation of individuals with disabilities with representation on all the island.	Survey Annual report	✓	CIL DSE SILC

4 th . Quarter 2021 – 2023	participation and community life.	services to the population.	% of consumers that achieved a goal of independent living or that completed annual services, and that access and complete the satisfaction survey.	Satisfaction survey	✓	CIL DSE SILC
4 th . Quarter 2023			% of surveyed consumers that completed their ILP or a signed waiver, at the end of the year that can identify or explain the way in which they are more independent, that increased their participation in the community, and auto- determination after receiving the services from the independent living centers in each region.	Satisfaction survey	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
4 th . Quarter 2023			Number of success stories per each CIL and demonstrative projects that are published in a documentary, interview, or press release annually.	Document	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

During 2021 – 2023			Number of annual publications that collects the impact of the services and independent living projects, is distributed among 100% of the CILs, and is published in the SILC’s webpage.	Document	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
GOAL III						
4 th . Quarter 2022	Individuals with disabilities will have access to community services to maximize their independence, empowerment, and self-determination.	3.1 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will develop a model to address access to accessible transportation services to individuals with disabilities.	Number of surveys about the availability of accessible transportation per region, number of focus groups, and number of individuals with disabilities representatives of municipalities per region.	Survey Document Observation	✓	CIL DSE SILC
2nd. Quarter 2023			Number of transportation models that are included in the report with recommendations according to the needs and resources.	Document	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

4th. Quarter 2023			Number of models that apply to most of the regions will be presented with its possible funding source and sent to the municipalities, organizations and agencies, Number that shows interest in developing it as a pilot project establishing a collaborative agreement.	Document	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
			Number of annual advocacy activities before private transportation service providers, % of increment of accessible transportation and % of covered areas in its platform for accessible transportation through a collaborative agreement.	Quarterly report	✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Annual report (704)	✓	
				Document		
During 2021 - 2023		3.2 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will promote the inclusion of individuals with disabilities, and	Number of advocacy activities per year in each region and the % of municipalities that amend their emergency plans to address the needs of	Quarterly and annual report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

		their needs in the municipal and state emergency plans of P.R.	population with disabilities.			
			Number of trainings per year in each region that includes personnel of the agencies in charge of emergency management and % knowledge increment.	Quarterly and annual report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
4 th . Quarter 2021			Number of personal protective materials and equipment for complying with the social-physical distancing rules while providing direct services to consumers with ILP or with a waiver.	Annual report	✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
GOAL IV						
During 2021 - 2023	Individual with disabilities that belong to minority groups in geographic areas that are underserved or unserved will have access to the independent	4.1 During the plan, the Independent Living Network will guide its efforts to reach organizations, individuals, and communities that are underserved or	Number of collaborative agreements, number of immigrant organizations, and LGBTTIQ individuals for knowledge exchange and access to the independent living and	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Document	✓	CIL DSE SILC

	living services.	unserved to facilitate access to independent living services.	community services.			
			Number of youths with significant disabilities, % that acquire leadership skills, empowerment, and advocacy, % that participate in advocacy and activities forums, and % that become part of the board, councils, and committees.	Quarterly report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
During 2021 - 2023			Number of individuals trained as personal assistants, number of consumers that are trained in self direction of care, number of consumers that receive personal assistant services, and the % surveyed that increase their level of independence and community participation.	Quarterly and annual report	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC
				Survey	✓ ✓ ✓	CIL DSE SILC

1.5 Financial Plan

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the 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): 2021					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$70,615	\$219,468			\$15,267
Chapter 1, Part C			\$973,814		
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$40,000				
Social Security Reimbursement					
CARES Act			\$840,234		
Other					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds		\$32,232			
Other					

Fiscal Year(s): 2022					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$70,615	\$219,468			\$15,267
Chapter 1, Part C			\$973,814		
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$40,000				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds		\$32,232			
Other					

Fiscal Year(s): 2023					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$70,615	\$219,468			\$15,267
Chapter 1, Part C			\$973,814		
Other Federal Funds					
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	\$40,000				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Other					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds		\$32,232			
Other					

Description of financial plan narrative.

The financial plan is based on estimated budget allocations for complying with the identified objectives in Section 1.3 of this State Plan.

Title VII – Funds Part B and State Funds

PR has a total of \$ 338,717 authorized Part B funds by ACL. However, due to the current fiscal crisis, PR only has \$33,920 available for the 10% required match, thereby allowing us to draw down only \$305,350 of the total Part B funds allocated. The remaining balance of \$33,367 from the total authorized Part B funds (\$338,717) cannot be matched and therefore are not considered as part of the award nor as a carry-over for the following fiscal years. The total award amount available for drawdown and distribution is \$339,270 on combined funds (\$305,350 + \$33,920) and is allocated and distributed as established in section 3.2 of the SPIL.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of Puerto Rico is the Designated State Entity, and will retain \$15,267, or 5% of Part B funds and the corresponding state portion for a total of \$16,953 dollars to support the plan’s objectives for complying with the established roles and responsibilities in Section 1329.12 of the federal regulation. These responsibilities are widely

described in Section 4 of the current State Plan, and they are carried out by an employee assigned to provide administrative support service for the program.

The amount of \$219,468 of Part B funds and \$32,232 of the state matching funds represent a total of \$251,695 dollars for each year of the plan to be used for providing independent living services by contracting independent living centers or other service providers of independent living services as detailed in Section 3.2. The selection and provision of funds will be determined through a request for proposal that will comply with the established objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1 in the following manner:

- For the service provision of the core independent living services of the East and East Central geographic areas, the SILC will request and evaluate proposals from the CILs currently serving these regions. The East region will be assigned \$48,469 from Part B funds and \$7,091 from state funds for a total of \$55,560 dollars. The East – Central region will be assigned \$78,140, of which \$68,148 belong to the Part B funds and the remainder from state funds..
- For the exploratory projects described in objective 4.1 (activities 4.1.2 y 4.1.3), the total of funds allocated per year are \$118,000, of which \$102,851 are from Part B funds. The personal assistance project will impact the Southeast and Central regions. The demonstrative project for the leadership, empowerment, and advocacy of youth with disabilities from 18 to 24 years of age will be for residents of the Northwest, Southwest, and North-Central regions. The funds will be allocated through a competitive proposal process among the existing CILs in Puerto Rico. The received proposals will be evaluated by the SILC and the most qualified proponent will be selected. However:
 - If the existing CILs are not interested in participating in the competitive process, or the submitted proposals do not comply with the requirements established for the implementation and development of the projects, an open competition process will be established within the general community following the process established on section 4.2. The selection of the proponent will be determined by the DSE and the SILC, and the awarding of the contract will continue following the process established in that section.
 - The previous criteria will also be applied when the results of the programmatic monitoring and the other evaluation criteria used show that the awarded contract did not reach the compliance indicators expected for each project. This incompliance will result in the non renewal of the contract, and an open competition process will be opened for the allocation of funds for selecting the best proponent according to the established procedure in Section 4.2.

The SILC will use \$70,619 dollars, which represents 23.12% of the Part B funds and \$40,000 that come from the Innovation and Expansion funds for a total of \$110,619 to carry out the tasks described in Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, and to comply with the following objectives of the plan: 1.1, 1.3, 2.1 y 3.1.

Title VII – Funds Part C

A total of \$973,814 Part C funds will be used for the general operation of the Independent Living Centers to complying with objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1. The Independent Living Centers are: “Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente” (Metro and North Region) and the “Centro Pro-Vida Independiente” (South Region).

Other federal funds – CARES Act

The CILs (Part C) received a total of \$941,295 dollars during fiscal year 2020, from the CARES Act funds, to address the situation caused by the pandemic (COVID-19). Upon the approval of this plan, \$840,234 are estimated for expansion, utilization, and acquisition of technology that would allow and support service provision for more consumers, including the provision of trainings to the personnel, as described objective 1.2 (activities: 1.2.1 and 1.2.2). In addition, according to objective 3.2, activity 3.2.3, the CIL will acquire personal protection equipment and materials to maintain the safety and health of the CIL personnel as well as the consumers before, during, and after providing direct services.

Following is a detailed outline according to the funding source centers for for the independent living and projects.

CILS / Entities	FUNDS PART B	FUNDS PART C	CARES ACT F.Y. 2021	STATE FUNDS
Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (Metro Region)		\$490,141	\$413,227	
Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (North Region)		\$146,954	\$126,532	
Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (East-Central Region)	\$68,148			\$9,992
Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (East Region)	\$48,469			\$7,091
Centro Pro-Vida Independiente (South Region)		\$336,719	\$300,475	
Independent Living/exploratory projects	\$102,851			\$15,149
TOTAL	\$219,468	\$973,814	\$840,234	\$32,232

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Services

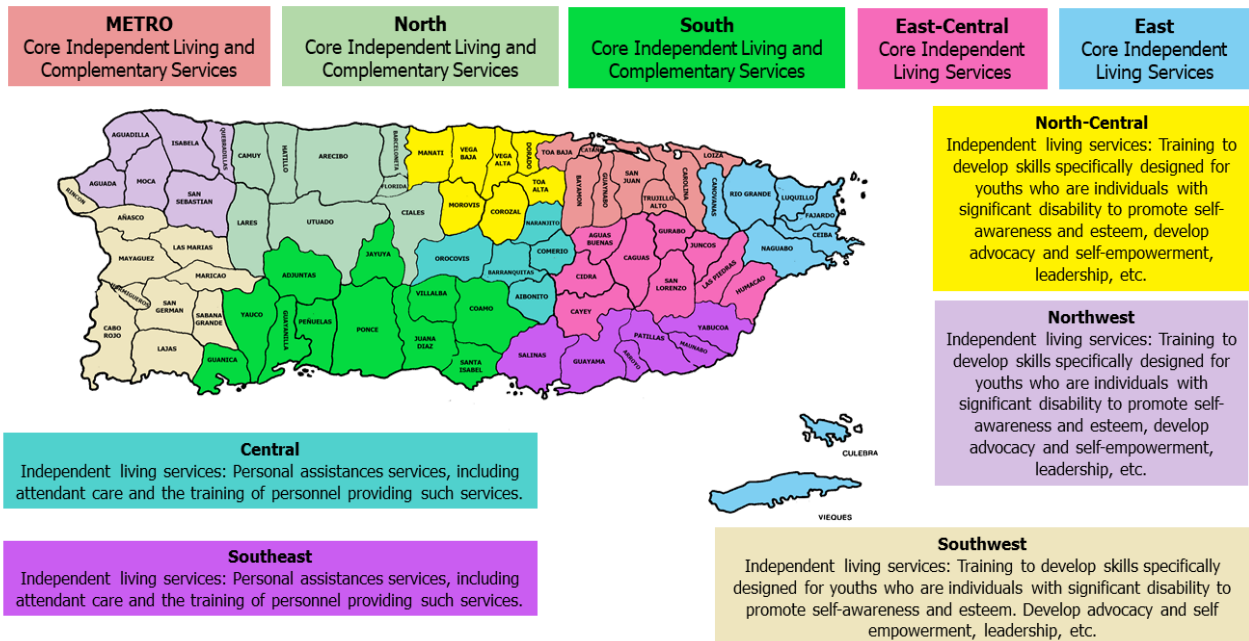
Services to be provided to persons with disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility, and state wideness.

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
- Information and referral	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
- IL skills training	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
- Peer counseling	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
- Individual and systems advocacy	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
- Transition services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life 	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services			
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.			
Rehabilitation technology			
Mobility training	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	YES		DSE

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
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	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Supported living			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices			
Individual and group social and recreational services			
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	YES	YES	CIL, DSE
Services for children			
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance, of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with disabilities		YES	CIL
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future			
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	YES	YES	CIL, DSE

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act	YES	YES	CIL, DSE

Independent Living Services – Puerto Rico Network



2.2 Outreach

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

The Puerto Rico State Council for Independent Living defines a unserved population or geographic area as one that does not have access to a Center for Independent Living. An underserved geographic area is one that has limited access to a Center for Independent Living or where the population is poorly represented among CIL’s consumers. With the support of the State Plan Committee, the SILC used various methods for identifying the geographic areas of unserved or underserved population with disabilities.

During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the University of Puerto Rico Graduate School in Rehabilitation and Counseling was commissioned to carry out a need’s assessment for independent living services in Puerto Rico. The assessment included surveys, interviews, and focus groups with the purpose

of: Identifying the unserved or underserved population, and the geographic areas with greater needs for independent living services; establishing independent living service priorities so that individuals with disabilities could live more independently; and identifying the barriers that affect the strengthening of the Independent Living Network in Puerto Rico. The unserved or underserved geographic areas in Puerto Rico were: the rural areas regardless of the municipality and the Central and West-Central areas of the island. The disability group with greater needs of services includes individuals with sensory disabilities, individuals within the autism spectrum, and individuals with more significant disabilities. Among the identified priorities so that individuals with disabilities could live on an independent manner the needs survey included: mobility (transportation) and personal assistants services. Among the identified barriers the study identified: the lack of funding, lack of accessible public transportation, and personnel limitations.

Also, a *Program Performance Report* analysis was carried out for identifying the population group per age that is underserved. According to the collected data, the population of youth with disabilities is underserved at the Independent Living Centers, especially among the 20-24 years of age group. On the other hand, the SPIL Committee identified among the unserved minority groups the immigrants and the LGBTTIQ collective population.

To validate the geographic areas that were identified in the needs assessment study as unserved or underserved by the Independent Living Centers, the most updated data was used of the population with disabilities available in the *US Census Bureau* (2017), between 18 and 64 years of age (giving special emphasis to the population between 18 and 34 years of age). This data was compared to the percentage (%) of people with disabilities that are currently being serviced by the IL centers. It was established that any area that is being impacted in less than 2% is considered underserved. From this analysis, we concluded that most of the municipalities per region served by the Independent Living Centers are considered underserved. Some factors that were identified as contributing to this situation are: the number of individuals with disabilities per region, areas where the geographic extension is greater than the resources available, and the distribution of municipalities per region is not compatible with the mobility patterns of their residents.

One of these underserved regions is the North region which was composed of the following municipalities: Arecibo, Barceloneta, Florida, Ciales, Manatí, Morovis, Vega Baja, Vega Alta, Corozal, Utuado, Hatillo, Camuy, Lares, and Quebradillas. This is one region with less access due to limited financial resources, a vast geographic area, and the limited access to the services. This region is followed by the Central Region and East Region because they are of difficult access due to the distribution of municipalities that form its region. The Central Region includes the municipalities of Caguas, Gurabo, Aguas Buenas, Cidra, Aibonito, Cayey, Salinas, Guayama, and Arroyo. Also, the East Region is composed of 13 municipalities: Río Grande, Loíza, Canóvanas, Luquillo, Fajardo, Ceiba, Naguabo, Humacao, Yabucoa, Maunabo, San Lorenzo, Juncos, and Las Piedras. Both regions represent difficulties in access to services due to the distribution of the municipalities that compose the service areas.

On the other hand, the Metro Region is composed of the municipalities of: San Juan, Carolina, Trujillo Alto, Guaynabo, Bayamón, Cataño, and Toa Baja. The South Region includes the municipalities of: Ponce, Jayuya, Juana Díaz, Villalba, Coamo, Santa Isabel, Peñuelas, Adjuntas, Guayanilla, Yauco, and Guánica. Both of these regions have a greater population density of

individuals with disabilities, and due to this the percentage of the population that is impacted is 2% or less.

The following regions were identified as unserved: Northwest (Aguada, Aguadilla, Añasco, Isabela, Las Marías, Mayagüez, Moca, Rincón, and San Sebastián), Southwest (Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros, Lajas, Maricao, Sabana Grande, and San German), and North-Central (Dorado, Toa Alta, Naranjito, Barranquitas, Comerio, and Orocovis).

Using the data analysis previously described, the Independent Living Network proposes use to the SPIL objectives and activities to implement outreach strategies in collaboration with community resources (municipalities, state agencies, universities, ONG's, and private sector among others) to impact the unserved or underserved areas (rural and urban) and to minority populations with disabilities that are underserved or unserved including immigrants and the LGBTTIQ community. In addition, each CIL will develop its own outreach plan aimed at their specific areas and unserved populations.

Some of the identified outreach strategies in this plan include but are not limited to: forums and islandwide focus groups that will be conducted by the P.R. SILC; distribution of an electronic bulletin with information on independent living services islandwide distributed by P.R. SILC with collaboration from the CILs; awareness events that promote the identity, pride, and acknowledgement of the contribution of the Independent Living philosophy to society by different media (to be conducted by the CILs) and the development of a virtual modality of information on independent living (also to be carried out by the CILs).

Finally, the SPIL Committee, carried out a *mapping* exercise for identifying and redefining the geographic areas in the island considering two factors: where the population with disabilities commonly seek services, and also where there is a greater percentage of people with disabilities that are underserved or unserved. This exercise helped establish the ten (10) regions that are described on Sec. 3.2.

2.3 Coordination

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

The Independent Living Network (P.R. SILC, CILs, DSE) enhances its coordination and collaboration efforts with other organizations to support the inclusion and participation in the community of individuals with disabilities, especially in housing, transportation, and employment areas. These efforts begin with the composition of the P.R. SILC, in compliance with Sec. 705 (b), which has among its members: one (1) Center for Independent Living Director; a representative from the Designated State Entity, the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration. Among its ex officio members it has representatives from public agencies such as the Housing Department and the Health Department. In addition, once this plan is approved, it will also have a representative from the Department of Transportation.

P.R. SILC will set aside a space in the agenda of their regular meetings, to discuss and identify matters that will support maintaining people with disabilities in their communities. Agencies and

organizations within the SILC will submit possible solutions and strategies to the Centers for Independent Living and to the formulators of public policy, to work towards improving the quality of life and maximum inclusion of PWDs in the community. A progress report will be presented in each meeting. In addition, the P.R. SILC, the CILs, and the represented state agencies in the SILC will collaborate and coordinate services according to the objectives described in this plan.

Other efforts will be aimed at increasing public awareness about the needs of the population with disabilities, their inclusion into society, equal treatment, and their contribution to the community through the following:

1. PR SILC will carry out virtual forums to understand the needs of the population with disabilities and determine possible solutions with the collaboration of the CILs and other organizations that support community living for individuals with disabilities.
2. The CILs, with the support of P.R. SILC, will conduct educational campaigns on the IL philosophy and its contribution to society, using their webpages, social media, electronic bulletins and highlighting consumers' success stories, achievements in systems change, and the services offered by the CIL.
3. The Independent Living Network will participate and collaborate with other organizations in systems advocacy at the state level in order to address the needs identified during this plan.

The Independent Living Network maintains its commitment to achieve the inclusion of people with disabilities in all the sectors of society. This plan emphasizes collaborative efforts in the areas of advocacy, emergency management response, and outreach to unserved or underserved populations. Some of the initiatives include coordination with the following organizations and agencies.

1. Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.
2. Education Department.
3. Ombudsman for People with Disabilities.
4. State Council on Developmental Disabilities
5. State Council of Vocational Rehabilitation.
6. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
7. Emergency Management Agency (state and municipal).
8. Civil Rights Commission.
9. General Consulate of Dominican Republic.
10. General Consulate of Mexico.
11. General Consulate of Bolivia.
12. General Consulate of Venezuela.
13. Committee for Seeking Equity.
14. Universities (public and privates).
15. P.R. Assistive Technology Program
16. PR College of Social Work.
17. College of Rehabilitation Counseling Professionals.

The efforts for the coordination of services to ensure equal access to employment, housing, and transportation will be continued.

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 (e.g., Part B, Part C, state funds, etc.) and oversight entity.

The Independent Living Network in Puerto Rico is defined by the following criteria:

1. Comply with the standards and assurances of Section 725 (b) (c) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
2. Are eligible to sign the State Plan for Independent Living.

Legal name	Counties served	Oversight process	Sources of Funds	Oversight entity	SPIL Signatory (yes/no)
Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (MAVI)	Metro Region	CIL submits PPR to ACL/OILP	Part C CARES Act	ACL/OILP	Yes (sign once)
	North Region	CIL Submits PPR to ACL/OILP	Part C CARES Act	ACL/OILP	
	Central Region	Submits PPR to DSE	Part B	DSE	No
	East Region	Submits PPR to DSE	Part B	DSE	No
Centro Pro-Vida Independiente (CEPVI)	South Region	CIL submits PPR to ACL/OILP	Part C CARES Act	ACL/OILP	Yes (sign once)

In Puerto Rico, there are two (2) Centers for Independent Living, funded with Part C funds, that comply with the above mentioned criteria. These are: “Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente” (MAVI) and the “Centro Pro- Vida Independiente” (CEPVI).

MAVI operates two (2) centers for independent living financed with Part C funds and two (2) branches that offer independent living core services that are funded with Part B funds. It is considered only one center for independent living, with a board of directors, and an executive director.

CEPVI operates one center for independent living financed with Part C funds in the south region of the island, with a board of directors, and an executive director that signs the State Plan for Independent Living.

The following is a description of the current Independent Living Network in Puerto Rico. After

the approval of this State Plan, changes were implemented in the services areas, as described and justified in Sec. 3.2.

1. Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente (MAVI)

Part C funds:

Provides independent living core and complementary services in the following regions:

Metro Region: San Juan, Carolina, Trujillo Alto, Guaynabo, Bayamón, Cataño, and Toa Baja.

Population with disabilities: 208,008 (21.61% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 221.51 square miles.

Funding source: Part C

North Region: Arecibo, Barceloneta, Florida, Ciales, Manatí, Morovis, Vega Baja, Vega Alta, Corozal, Utuado, Hatillo, Camuy, Lares, and Quebradillas.

Population with disabilities: 96,061 (19.30% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 724.86 square miles.

Funding Source: Part C

Oversight entity and process: ACL / PPR TO ACL

Part B and state funds:

Providers for independent living core services:

Central Region: Caguas, Gurabo, Aguas Buenas, Cidra, Aibonito, Cayey, Salinas, Patillas, Guayama, and Arroyo.

Population with disabilities: 104,423 (26.17% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 439.244 square miles.

Oversight entity and process: DSE / PPR TO DSE

East Region: Río Grande, Loíza, Canóvanas, Luquillo, Fajardo, Ceiba, Naguabo, Humacao, Yabucoa, Maunabo, San Lorenzo, Juncos, Las Piedras, Culebra, and Vieques.

Population with disabilities: 77,356 (17.47% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 553.219 square miles.

Oversight entity and process: DSE / PPR TO DSE

2. Centro Pro-Vida Independiente (CEPVI)

South Region: Ponce, Jayuya, Juana Díaz, Villalba, Coamo, Santa Isabel, Peñuelas, Adjuntas, Guayanilla, Yauco, and Guánica.

Population with disabilities: 84,003 (22.15% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 638.03 square miles.

Oversight entity and process: ACL / PPR TO ACL

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

Plan and priorities for use of funds, by funding source, including Part B funds, Part C funds, State funds, and other funds, whether current, increased, or one-time funding and methodology for distribution of funds. Use of funds to build capacity of existing Centers, establish new Centers, and/or increase state wideness of Network.

In Puerto Rico, the provision of independent living services is funded by three (3) funding sources: Part C, Part B, and state funds. The expansion of the independent living network will depend on new Title VII, Part C funding.

Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to bring each Center to the minimum. Exceptions must be explained with sufficient detail.

The Independent Living Network (ILN) has established a minimum of funding level of **\$270,000** for an independent living center with Part C funds. For establishing the minimum funding level, the ILN used a formula based on the following factors: current available funds, % of individuals with disabilities per region, square miles per region, % of cost associated with administration, cost of living and progress.

The priorities for the utilization of new Title VII, Part C funds in Puerto Rico are:

- **Priority #1:** To build the capacity of the existing CILs, allocate Part C funds to Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente, North Region (Arecibo), until reaching the minimum level of **\$270,000**. Currently, receives **\$146,954** of Part C funds.
- **Priority #2:** To build the capacity of the existing CILs, allocate Part C funds to the Centro Pro-Vida Independiente, South Region (Ponce), until reaching **\$355,000**. Currently receives **\$336,719** of Part C funds.
- **Priority #3:** To establish a new center for independent living, allocate Part C funds to the East-Central Region until reaching the minimum of **\$270,000**. Currently receives Part B funds.

If the increase in funding is no greater than \$200,000, the remaining funds will be distributed between priority #1 and #2 using the formula based on population and geographic extension. If the increase is greater than \$200,000 but less than \$300,000, will be allocated to support the establishment of new CIL following priority # 3 until reaching the minimum funding. If the increase is greater than \$300,000, the remaining funds will be used for establishing of new independent living center through a competition process.

Plan for one-time funding and/or temporary changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels.

In the case of one-time funding, they will be distributed using the formula based on the population and geographic extension of the regions, for optimizing or incrementing the capacity of existing CILs. Temporary changes in the service areas or funding level will be agreed among the SILC and the CILs before introducing amendments to the SPIL.

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

When the existing funds are reduced without affecting the minimum funding level, the municipalities that compose the service area will be redistributed, according to the % of funds reduced, the % of population with disabilities for the region, the geographic extension, and % of allocated funds in the surrounding areas to the CIL affected by the reduction.

When the existing funds are reduced below the minimum funding level, the service area will be reduced, taking into account the % of funds reduced, and % of population with disabilities in the municipalities that compose the region and its geographic extension.

The changes in the regions will be agreed among SILC and CILs before introducing amendments to the SPIL.

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

When a CIL's funds are withdrawn or relinquished, for any reason including noncompliance, the available funds will be used for establishing a new CIL in the same region through a request for proposal (competition), among the independent living centers or qualified petitioners. If this process happens out of the date for requesting by proposal the funds, the remaining funds will be distributed among the existing CILs following priority #1 and #2, until the request for a proposal process for the new fiscal year is available.

Carryover:

If funds not used are identified during the fiscal year, those funds will be distributed in the funding for the following year to address the areas and unserved or underserved population as have been identified in Sec. 2.2.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network.

According to the data analysis previously discussed in Sec. 2.2, the SPIL Committee carried out a mapping exercise for identifying and redefining the regions and service areas to maximize the CILs capacity using the following factors: the geographic extension is greater than the available

resources per region, population of individuals with disabilities per region, and the travel routes of the residents in the municipalities that compose the region. From the approval of this state plan, the network will be constituted by ten (10) regions and service areas, as follow:

Regions served by Centers for Independent Living:

Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente:

Metro Region: San Juan, Carolina, Trujillo Alto, Guaynabo, Bayamón, Cataño, Toa Baja, and Loíza.

Population with disabilities: 213,421 (21.46% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 281 square miles.

Funding Source: \$490,141 (Part C)

Adjustment: One (1) municipality is assigned to the region.

Justification:: Available resources and the travel routes of the residents.

North Region: Arecibo, Barceloneta, Florida, Ciales, Utuado, Hatillo, Camuy, and Lares.

Population with disabilities: 50,654 (19.19% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 497 square miles.

Source of Funding: \$146,954 (Part C)

Adjustment: Six (6) municipalities are removed from the region.

Justification: Geographic extension and % of individuals with disabilities is greater than the available resources, and the travel routes of the residents were not compatible with the municipalities that were previously assigned.

Centro Pro-Vida Independiente

South Region: Ponce, Jayuya, Juana Díaz, Villalba, Coamo, Santa Isabel, Peñuelas, Adjuntas, Guayanilla, Yauco, and Guánica.

Population with disabilities: 84,003 (22.15% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 638 square miles.

Funding source: \$336,719 (Part C)

Adjustment: N/A

Justification: N/A

Partially served regions:

Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente

East-Central Region: Caguas, Gurabo, Aguas Buenas, Cidra, San Lorenzo, Cayey, Juncos, Las Piedras, and Humacao.

Population with disabilities: 102,811 (22.31% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 368 square miles.

Funding source: \$78,140 (Part B)

Adjustment: The same number of municipalities in the region, are substituted by other municipalities.

Justification: Travel routes of the residents were not compatible with the municipalities that were previously assigned.

East Region: Río Grande, Canóvanas, Luquillo, Fajardo, Ceiba, Naguabo, Culebra, and Vieques.

Population with disabilities: 37,293 (15.54% of the total population of the region)

Geographic extension: 292 square miles.

Funding source: \$55,560 (Part B)

Adjustment: Seven (7) municipalities are removed from the region, are relocated in other regions.

Justification: The geographic extension is greater than the available resources, and travel routes of the residents is not compatible with the municipalities that were assigned.

Unservd regions:

Unservd regions are those that lack access to an independent living center or at least to independent living core services. Puerto Rico is composed of 78 municipalities, of which, 34 municipalities are unserved. These municipalities are located in the regions of: Southwest, Northwest, Southeast, Central, and North-central. As following described:

Southwest Region: Mayagüez, Sabana Grande, San Germán, Añasco, Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros, Lajas, Las Marías, Maricao, and Rincón.

Population with disabilities: 62,839 (21% of the total population of the region)

Population with disabilities 18 – 34 years of age: 4,941 (8% of the population with disabilities)

Geographic extension: 439.46 square miles.

% poverty of the population with disabilities: 53%

Northwest Region: Aguadilla, Quebradilla, Aguada, Isabela, Moca, and San Sebastián.

Population with disabilities: 59,636 (25% of the total population of the region)

Population with disabilities (18 – 34 years of age): 4,638 (8% of the population with disabilities)

Geographic extension: 270 square miles.

% poverty of the population with disabilities: 57%

North-Central Region: Vega Baja, Dorado, Manatí, Vega Alta, Corozal, and Toa Baja.

Population with disabilities: 59,164 (19% of the total population of the region)

Population with disabilities (18 – 34 years of age): 4,653 (8% of the population with disabilities)

Geographic extension: 255 square miles.

% poverty of the population with disabilities: 49%

Central Region: Comerío, Aibonito, Barranquitas, Naranjito, and Orocovi.

Population with disabilities: 35,108 (28.86% of the total population of the region)

Population with disabilities (18 – 34 years of age): 3,447 (10% of the population with

disabilities)

Geographic extension: 187.47 square miles.

% poverty of the population with disabilities: 58%

Southeast Region: Guayama, Maunabo, Salinas, Yabucoa, Arrollo, and Patillas.

Population with disabilities: 29,860 (18.84% of the total population of the region)

Population with disabilities (18 – 34 years of age): 3,420 (11% of the population with disabilities)

Geographic extension: 276.83 square miles.

% poverty of the population with disabilities: 54%

After the approval of this plan, these regions will be served with independent living exploratory projects with Part B funds, according to Sec. 713 (b) Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended. For establishing independent living services per region, the following criteria was mainly used: needs for independent living services identified in Sec. 2.2, % of population underserved and % of poverty per region.

The independent living projects are the following:

- **Youth Services** – A leadership project will be developed aimed at young people between the ages of 18 to 24, residents of the southwest region, northwest, and the north-central region. This project will identify young people interested in developing leadership, empowerment and advocacy skills and as a result will join boards, councils or committees that address issues that affect and benefit the population with disabilities. An allocation of \$150,000.00 of Part B and state funds is contemplated in a three year period (2021-2023).
- **Personal Assistance Services** – The purposes of this project is to provide supporting services to individuals with disabilities between the ages of 18 – 64, especially on poverty situations, residents of the southeast and central region, to avoid being institutionalized and continue living in the community. The project will consist of two phases. In the first phase, trainings and capacitation will be provided to consumers and to the personnel recruited to provide the service. The second phase will consist of providing direct assistance services to the consumers. An allocation of \$204,000 of Part B and state funds is contemplated in a three year period (2021-2023).

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Vocational Rehabilitation Administration will serve as the entity in PUERTO RICO 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. (*Sec. 704(c)*)

4.1 DSE Responsibilities

- (1) receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
- (2) provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;
- (3) keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
- (4) submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
- (5) 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 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.

Currently, for continuation of grants to centers for independent living and service providers identified in section 3.2 of the SPIL, the VRA will carry out the following:

- Application of the *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 CFR Part 200* and the state government policies to provide a contract agreement with eligible entities and payment for services rendered.
- Review and evaluation of programmatic and fiscal sections of proposals to assure that were developed according to the SPIL.
- Discussion of the proposals evaluations and request of an endorsement document from SILC for each proposal received.

The VRA is part of the SPIL committee and jointly collaborates with the other partners in the development of the state plan and with the evaluation process of compliance with all applicable requirements. It also works with SILC, in identifying relevant reports used to evaluate the compliance of the SPIL activities.

VRA is in the process of reviewing manuals and procedures for its administrative and operational policies in accordance with applicable regulations. This includes the process for the allocation of funds according with the SPIL, consistent with the most recent federal regulations and state requirements for establishing contract service with subrecipients and providing independent living service. These manuals include:

- Review of request for proposals process including cycle period, instruments for the evaluation and contracting documents required.
- Evaluation process and compliance levels with the standards and assurances of the Section 725 of the Act and with the necessary improvements in the programmatic and fiscal areas identified during monitoring reviews and submitted correction plans from the previous contracts.

- Evaluation of the Annual Quality Program submitted in the proposal to provide independent living services in compliance with Section 725, evaluation of administrative practices, review of accurate information of performance annual report, and measurable indicators of planned activities and levels of compliance with the corrective action plan as a result of the monitoring onsite review.
- Submission and discussion of the proposal evaluation report to SILC, determination of levels and indicators of compliance in accordance with eligibility requirements to provide a continuous service contract and allocate funds as established in the SPIL and request an endorsement document from SILC to begin the formal contract process.

If the SPIL considers an open competition processes for allocating new funds, the following will be completed:

- Notice of request for proposals will be published in a local and virtual media, includes the deadline, requirements and selection criteria, data forms and delivery procedure.
- Evaluation of programmatic and fiscal areas according to the SPIL.
- Evaluation of the geographic area and populations to be served with priority on those identified as unserved or underserved in accordance with the SPIL.
- History or years of experience with the population to be served and with the independent living services that will be provided.
- Selection, jointly with SILC, of the most qualified applicant consistent with SPIL requirements and federal regulations for the provision of independent living services.

4.3 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

Each year during the term of the plan, the VRA will conduct programmatic on site reviews to the Center of Independent Living and service providers that were contracted according to section 3.2 of the SPIL for receiving the allocation of Part B funds and the state match portion. The monitoring visit is to assure that the independent living services provided were consistent with the standards and assurances of Section 725 of the Rehabilitation Act, with the objectives and SPIL activities and with the state requirements of the signed service contract.

The monitoring protocol includes: prior notice, meeting with director and service coordinator, request for documents of activities carried out, reviews of the active and closed consumers service records reviews of the administrative and programmatic processes, in addition to the review of expenses and use of funds according to the Uniform Fiscal Guidance and contract awarded. The review of quarterly reports of consumers served, as well as the monthly payment invoices are part of the reviews and its findings are integrated in a report of results and recommendations. Technical assistance is provided to improve the implementation of activities and direct independent living services directly to the consumers.

A corrective action plan of the findings is required in a period of twenty (20) workdays after receiving the monitoring report. Finally, results are shared with the SILC on ordinary meeting.

The VRA is in the process of reviewing manuals and performance measurement instruments, as part of the monitoring visits protocols. This includes: new reviews instruments and compliance indicators and adaptation of the *CIL Tool*, review of the implementation of corrective action plans and compliance percentage (%) requirement as part of the eligibility requirements to continue receiving funds in common agreement with the SILC and section 3.2 of the SPIL.

The CILs that receives Part C funds are not monitored by the DSE.

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

The VRA as an ex officio member, collaborates in the plan development for provision of resources of the SILC, including necessary and sufficient personnel and employees to comply with its duties and statutory obligations, consistent with the SPIL, without including conditions that compromise SILC's independence. The VRA as the DSE receives notifications and reports about the use of the budget assigned to the SILC as subrecipient of Part B funds, without imposing any requirement that would compromise SILC's autonomy.

4.4 Administration and Staffing

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

The VRA, ensures they use only a 5% of Part B funds in administrative support services, including state matching through fiscal procedures such as:

- The separation of these funds for distribution into salary, fringe benefits, transportation and office material expenses for personnel that deals directly with the service program.
- The certification of personal activities by program in which the invested time of each employee is reported for providing the following supporting administrative services:
 - In the achievement of the objectives 1.1, 1.2 and 4.1 included in the SPIL.
 - As ex officio member of the SILC.
 - In the provision of technical assistance for preparing programmatic and fiscal reports to ensure compliance with contractual requirements.
 - In the implementation of fiscal control and accounting procedures of funds needed to guarantee the appropriate disbursement.
 - In the preparing the service contract process consistent of section 3.2 of the SPIL.
 - In monitoring visits and follow up reports required to assess compliance with guarantees and standards of Section 725.

No VRA employee is assigned as part of the staff of the SILC.

4.5 State Imposed Requirements

State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including: (45 CFR 1329.17(g))

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

- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329
- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

No requirement has been imposed by the Puerto Rican Government that exceeds the requirements to comply with the established federal regulations.

As described in sections 4.3 and 5.2, the VRA ensures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity and does not interfere with the operations and functions of the SILC specifically in making decisions about the spending and distribution of federal funds; meeting schedules and agendas; in the nomination and appointment process, board business and voting actions; staff administration; allowable training and travels and; in all other activities carried out in order to comply with all the duties and authorities of the SILC, in which the VRA does not impose any state requirement that compromises the autonomy of the SILC.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

- 722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)
 723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

4.7 723 States

Order of priorities for allocating funds amounts to Centers, agreed upon by the SILC and Centers, and any differences from 45 CFR 1329.21 & 1329.22.

How state policies, practices, and procedures governing the awarding of grants to Centers and oversight of the Centers are consistent with 45 CFR 1329.5, 1329.6, & 1329.22.

N/A

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established, and SILC autonomy is assured.

The P.R. SILC was established as an independent entity through Executive Order 1993-44, as amended in 2016, issued by Honorable Governor of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. It is currently, registered in the State Department of Puerto Rico as a non-for-profit organization. Despite its efforts, it still does not have the state or federal tax exemption. One of the activities of the SILC under this plan is obtaining both tax exemptions that would allow the development of resources. An Understanding Agreement, for three years, to assure the autonomy, is signed by SILC and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration as DSE. The agreement will be signed by the parties during fiscal year 2021.

The P.R. SILC, also maintains its autonomy by administrating its office space, determining its office hours and administrative practices, preparing and managing its annual budget, and developing its own policy and procedures according to federal and state regulations.

The State Plan for Independent Living addresses the requirements that no condition is imposed to the SILC that compromises its independence.

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.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, as the DSE, will allocate funds to the SILC in the amount of \$40,000 from Innovation and Expansion and \$70,615 from Part B, for a total of \$110,615 per year; in order to carry out the functions described in section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. The funds received will be used to cover the following expenses:

- Staff and professional contracts: expenses related to salary and fringe benefits of the SILC staff. The SILC will operate with an executive director, a community outreach coordinator, a full-time administrative assistant, and an accountant hired under professional services.
- Office expenses: include office materials, telephone, internet, web page maintenance, postage, purchasing/rent/office equipment repairs, printing, among others.
- Expenses and reimbursement to council members: Members of the SILC, except for ex-officio, have the right to receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses during the performance of their duties as council. These include expenses are related to reasonable accommodations: personal assistance services, interpreters, material and alternative formats, among others.
- Trainings and conferences: expenses related to trainings, registrations, conferences and congresses, in and outside of Puerto Rico.
- Activities and forums: expenses related to collecting data of the population with disabilities that include needs assessment survey, satisfaction questionnaire, focus groups, among others.
- Payment of fffice rent and parking.

- Other expenses: NCIL’s annual membership, public responsibility insurance, and directors and officers insurance.

The P.R. SILC has delegated in its executive director the responsibility of developing the resources plan to comply with activities of Section 705 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, as amended. The executive director and SILC chairperson lead the negotiation of the allocated resources of the Innovation and Expansion funds with the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, as DSE. The resources plan is based on the allocation of funds received in the current fiscal year and it is subject to continue receiving the same allocated amount. It has developed under the understanding that the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration will allocate \$40,000 of Innovation and Expansion funds, and \$70,615 of funds Part B for each year of the plan. If these funding cease, reduce or increase, SILC will review and adjust the funding amounts included in the SPIL.

The Executive Committee is composed of elected officials and the executive director, as a member without the right to vote. Its responsibilities include developing the SILC annual budget as authorized in the State Plan for Independent Living. The Executive Committee, assuring that the financial resources are sufficient and appropriate for carrying out the SILC functions, submit the annual budget to the plenary of the SILC for revision and changes if necessary. The plenary of the SILC approves the budget for each fiscal year. Once approved, it is shared among the personnel and accountant of the SILC, and the DSE for its compliance.

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

The Executive Committee confers the responsibility to the executive director of the SILC for disbursement of the funds that facilitate the effective operations of SILC, according to the approved budget and the Uniform Guidance.

The procedures for the use of allocated funds are described in the Administrative Practices Manual, according to the Uniform Guidance.

- SILC funds come from federal appropriations received through the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration. These allocations correspond to two sources: Innovation and Expansion from Title I and Part B funds of Title VII.
- The Designed State Entity receives a monthly statement with evidence of the expenditures, disburses funds, and allies the funds and expenses of the Resources Plan, on behalf of the SILC. The monthly statement is reviewed, approved, and certified by the accountant.
- The funds received are deposited through electronic transferring by “Departamento de Hacienda” (Treasury Department) in the bank authorized by SILC. The SILC maintains a bank account in a commercial bank used for payment of expenses as approved by the annual budget.
- The disbursement of funds is carried out through signed checks by two of the three (3) authorized officials. The SILC in plenary approves the list of potential signing members.

These have to be selected from among the members that compose the executive committee: chairperson, vice-president, treasurer or secretary. Once selected, the signature cards are updated according to the banking institution. Changes on the list of names must be approved by the SILC in ordinary meeting.

- All disbursements are supported with the proper documentation such as time sheets for time worked, invoices and/or check requests for other disbursements and reimbursements. In no case will expenditures be made without the supporting documentation being reviewed and approved.
- Invoices are sealed with a stamp of the date it was received. The invoices that are received electronically are printed, and are subject to the same review, approval, and processing procedures as paper invoices that are received.
- Checks will be pre-numbered in sequential order. Access to unused checks is limited to individuals authorized to prepare checks. All voided checks should be retained and defaced with the signature portion of the check removed. No check is paid in “cash”.
- The executive director authorizes the payments of expenses related to the operation of the SILC. The checks are prepared in the executive office and supported by the proper documentation, certified by the accountant.
- Quarterly financial reports are revised, approved, and certified by the accountant, and sent to Vocational Rehabilitation Administration.
- At each ordinary meeting of the SILC, the treasurer presents a detailed report of the allocated budget by item, balances and expenditures, and any other report that may be requested.
- The executive committee evaluates the expense budget periodically during the fiscal year. This periodic review facilitates control of the budget expenses and the corresponding adjustments, when necessary and approved by the plenary of SILC.
- The SILC is audited by the VRA and as a result, corrective actions are taken as requested in the audit report received.

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

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL.¹

SILC members are appointed by the Governor of Puerto Rico, including the exoficio members, and the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration representative, as an Designated State Entity. The council members are appointed from among representatives of different groups of people with disabilities, representatives of organizations or the community at large, from different geographic regions, who are interested in improving the quality of life of people with disabilities. The SILC understands that although it reviews the and recommends candidates, the Governor of P.R. has the ultimate authority to select and appoint candidates. The candidates should be persons with disabilities that have knowledge of IL services provided in Puerto Rico, that represents a majority of the island's geographic regions, believe in team work, and have time to carry out assigned tasks. Members should believe in concepts of equal access, consumer control and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all aspects of society living.

To assuring that selection and appointing of the council members, comply with established rules, the following process is followed:

- The Appointments and Community Outreach Committee is responsible to recruiting candidates through outreach activities. A council member application package is available through the SILC webpage and in the office. The application package includes:
 - A presentation letter (from the Appointments and Community Outreach Committee).
 - Membership request (completed by the petitioner).
 - Curriculum (provided by the petitioner).
- Throughout the whole year, the SILC receives requests that are evaluating by the Appointments and Community Outreach Committee.
- The Appointments and Community Outreach Committee reviews the request and curriculum provided by the petitioner, protecting the confidentiality of the candidate for determining eligibility, competencies and abilities to fill the vacant category.
- The Appointments and Community Outreach meets regularly to evaluate the terms of each member, and present recommendations to the Executive Committee.
- The plenary session of the SILC approves the recommendations that will be made to the appointed authority.
- Once approved, the executive director submits all the information that allows the Governor's Office to favorably consider the candidate.
- A meeting is coordinated, if necessary, with the Governors Appointment Office to clarify and exchange information.

An orientation program for new council members is implemented through an annual training plan using the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center and the Guidebook for SILC Chairpersons, Members and Administrators. A manual for Council members is kept updated detailing the duties, responsibilities, and desired values from the Council members. It also, includes information about the history of the independent living movement, independent living philosophy, and information about what is an independent living center and services offered.

Composition of SILC:

The SILC is composed of eleven (11) members appointed by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

- The majority of its members are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or center for independent living.
- The majority of its voting members are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or center for independent living.
- The SILC includes:
 - One (1) director of a center for independent living selected by the directors of existing CILs.
 - One (1) representative from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, as the Designated State Entity.
 - Three (3) representatives from other state agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities.

- The remaining are individuals with disabilities under the categories of advocate, private enterprise, community based organizations, community, etc.

Terms:

According to Section 705 (b) (6), each member can serve for a term no greater than three (3) years, and no more than two consecutive terms, except for:

- An appointed member to fill a vacancy that happens before the ending of the term for which it was appointed a predecessor, whom will serve the remaining term of the appointment. Then, they will be able to serve two (2) full terms of three (3) years.
- The term of members initially appointed (as specified by the Governor) for fewer numbers of years stipulating that the expiration date is on staggered basis.
- No member is appointed for more than two (2) full consecutive terms of three years, unless there is only one center for independent living in PR, in which case the CIL director will be able to serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms.
- Every member that has completed two consecutive terms of three years will be able to return to be a member of the SILC after six (6) months of finishing the term.
- The duration of the term begins on the date that is appointed by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

Appointing, elections, and terms:

The Executive Committee is composed of the following officials: Chairperson, Vicepresident (optional), Secretary, and Treasurer. The appointments to elective positions are accepted from the plenary; with exemption to the Chairperson that is appointed among the members with right to vote. Officials are elected by the majority of the voting members of SILC, for two (2) years, with reelection option to a second term in the same or another position, as long as its appointment is active.

Staffing:

The Puerto Rico SILC has an Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual approved by the SILC members that establishes the rules, practices, and procedures of the administrative management of the Council. The Manual includes the personnel policy, fiscal procedures, and conflict of interest policy. The Council has a staff of two (2) employees: the executive director and an administrative assistant. Each position has a job description that forms part of an annual contract signed by the parties. The executive director is the administrator, responsible for overseeing the SILC operations and duties. Amongst his various responsibilities, supervises the disbursement of the SILC resource plan, develops and complies with the annual action plan of the SILC, coordinates and observes the progress and compliance with the goals and objectives established in the State Plan for Independent Living, coordinates and support the SILC meetings, coordinates the trainings for staff and board members, submits the annual PPR and coordinates the SPIL formulation. The executive director also will be working with consultants to make the evaluation process outcome oriented and to collect the required data and information. The administrative assistant manages the clerical and administrative aspects to keep the office running efficiently. In addition, to these full-time staff the SILC contracts an accounting professional that assists in the preparation of annual and quarterly income tax returns, reports,

and payments. The SILC will occasionally contract the services of other professionals that it considers necessary to fulfill the duties and functions of the Council in compliance with the State Plan for Independent Living.

The organizational chart of the SILC has the SILC Council on the highest tier. Below the SILC Council is the Executive Committee whom is responsible for recruiting, monitoring, and evaluating the effectiveness of the executive director in carrying out the duties described in the position's job description. The executive director provides a quarterly written report of operational duties which is discussed at each SILC meeting. An evaluation of the executive director's performance is completed annually by the Executive Committee and discussed with the SILC council members.

The executive director is responsible for conducting the hiring process and supervision of the SILC employee, currently the administrative assistant. Once a year the SILC Executive Director will carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the employee in the performance of their tasks; this evaluation is signed by both parties and placed in the employee's personnel file. When hiring external consultants, the Executive Director will work in coordination with the SILC Executive Committee in evaluating different proposals and selecting the best candidate.

The SILC provides the Executive Director the authority to carry out administrative and programmatic aspects of the SILC's operations. However, when a decision may affect the programmatic order established by the Council, the SILC Chair must be consulted before executing the decision. The recommended practice is that effective communication is always maintained between the administrative level and the regulatory level of the Council.

In addition to the Administrative Policies manual the SILC has its by-laws that are also updated when such a need arises. These changes are brought before the Executive Committee whom in turn presents to the SILC council who votes accordingly. The by-laws specify roles, responsibilities and faculties of the SILC in addition to the policies and procedures in effect for recruiting and removing SILC members, SILC composition, SILC working committees, voting procedures, meeting procedures, conflicts of interests, among others.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

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

Authorized representative of the DSE Madeline Hernández Dipiní 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 State Puerto Rico State Independent Living Council.

6.3 Centers for Independent Living (CILs)

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

Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente

Centro Pro-Vida Independiente

6.4 Authorizations

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

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL. YES (Yes/No)

6.4.c. State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL. YES (Yes/No)

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Madeline Hernández Dipiní (name of DSE director/representative) acting on behalf of the DSE Vocational Rehabilitation Administration located at Ponce de Leon Ave. Mercantil Plaza PO Box 191118 San Juan, PR 00919-1118 Phone number: 787-7290160, e-mail: Madeline@vra.pr.gov

45 CFR 1329.11 assures that:

- 7.1. The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;
- 7.2. The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;
- 7.3. The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;¹
- 7.4. The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in *45 CFR 1329.14*;
- 7.5. The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:
 1. Expenditure of federal funds
 2. Meeting schedules and agendas
 3. SILC board business
 4. Voting actions of the SILC board
 5. Personnel actions
 6. Allowable travel
 7. Trainings
- 7.6. The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C.796d(e)(3)).
- 7.7. The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;
- 7.8. The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:
1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
 2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
 3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

The signature below indicates this entity/agency’s agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL.¹

Madeline Hernández Dipiní, Vocational Rehabilitation Administrator
Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

<u>Electronic signature</u>	28/10/2020
Signature	Date

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

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

8.1 Assurances

María del C. Rodríguez Morales (SILC chairperson) acting on behalf of the SILC Puerto Rico Statewide Independent Living Council located at Ponce de Leon Avenue Mercantil Plaza PH 1601-A SAN JUAN PR 00919-4000, Phone number: 787-757-8345 e-mail address: cevi@prtc.net

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;¹
- (3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;¹
- (4) The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
- (5) The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;
 - a. The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
 - b. The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.¹
- (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.¹

Section 8.2 Indicators of Minimum Compliance

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

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS. –

- (1) SILC written policies and procedures must include:
 - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
 - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
 - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
 - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);

- e. A process and timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC “Executive Session” meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws;
 - i. “Executive Session” meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
 - ii. Agendas for “Executive Session” meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
 - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
 - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
 - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
- (2) The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
- (3) The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center’s SILC training curriculum.
- (4) The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
- a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state’s centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
 - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);
 - c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
 - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
 - i. proximity to public transportation,
 - ii. physical accessibility, and
 - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.

- e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
- (5) The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
- a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
- (6) The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
- a. Sufficient funds received from:
 - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
 - 1. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
 - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iii. Other public and private sources.
 - b. The funds DSE to support:
 - i. Staff/personnel;
 - ii. Operating expenses;
 - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
 - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
 - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
 - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

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

María del C. Rodríguez Morales
 Name of SILC chairperson

Electronic signature _____ 10/26/2020
 Signature _____ Date

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

Section 9: Signatures

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Puerto Rico State 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 October 1, 2020

<u>Electronic signature</u>	<u>10/26/2020</u>
SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	DATE

María del C. Rodríguez Morales
NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

Movimiento Alcance Vida Independiente
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

<u>Electronic signature</u>	<u>10/28/2020</u>
SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR	DATE

Betzaida Ramos Charriez
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Centro Pro Vida Independiente
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

<u>Electronic signature</u>	<u>10/27/2020</u>
SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR	DATE

Edgardo Vega Delgado
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

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