

# REPORTING INSTRUMENT

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**SECTION 704  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT  
For  
STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES  
PROGRAM  
(Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended)**

# **Part I INSTRUMENT**

**(To be completed by Designated State Units  
And Statewide Independent Living Councils)**

Reporting Fiscal Year: 2017

State: Puerto Rico

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## SUBPART V – STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

Section 705 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21

### Section A - Composition and Appointment

#### Item 1 – Current SILC Composition

In the chart below, provide the requested information for each SILC member. The category in which the member was appointed can be described, for example, as ex-officio state agency representative, other state agency representative, center representative, person with a disability not employed by a center or state agency, section 121 funded project director, parent of person with a disability, community advocate, other service provider, etc. Include current vacancies, along with the corresponding appointment category for each. Add more rows as necessary.

Name of SILC member	Employed by CIL, State Agency or Neither	Appointment Category	Voting or Non-Voting	Term Start Date	Term End Date
Dania Aleman-Vázquez	Neither	Service provider	Voting	May 20, 2016 Second full term	May 19, 2019
Elizabeth A. Ríos	Neither	Advocate	Voting	May 20, 2016 Second full term	May 19, 2019
Evelyn Martínez-Fuentes	Neither	Community	Voting	May 20, 2016 Second full term	May 19, 2019
José E. Lugo-Rivera	Neither	Center representative	Voting	June 10, 2016 First full term	June 9, 2019
Pablo Santiago	Neither	Private business	Voting	August 7, 2015 First full term	August 6, 2018
Jennifer E. Calderón-López	State agency	DSE	Non-voting	June 10, 2016 First full term	June 9, 2019
Charissa Crispin-Torres	State agency	Ex officio state agency	Non-voting	May 20, 2016 Second full term	May 19, 2019
Joel Ayala – Martinez	State agency	Ex officio state agency	Non-voting	May 19, 2017 First full term	May 19, 2019
Lizbeth Roman-Maysonet	State agency	Ex officio state agency	Non-voting	May 24, 2017 First full term	May 19, 2019

Name of SILC member	Employed by CIL, State Agency or Neither	Appointment Category	Voting or Non-Voting	Term Start Date	Term End Date
Vacant		Parent or guardian of individual with disability	Voting		
Vacant *Waiting for the appointment of the governor of Puerto Rico*		Executive Director of CILs	Voting		

**Item 2 – SILC Composition Requirements**

Please provide the information requested in the chart below. Include any current vacancies in a particular appointment category.

SILC Composition	# of SILC members
(A) How many members are on the SILC?	11
(B) How many members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	5
}	
(C) How many members of the SILC are voting members?	7
(D) How many of the voting members of the SILC are individuals with disabilities not employed by a state agency or a center for independent living?	6

**Section B – SILC Membership Qualifications**

Section 705(b)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(c)

**Item 1 – Statewide Representation**

Describe how the SILC is composed of members who provide statewide representation.

Council members provided statewide representation through the following affiliations:

1. States agencies:

Vocational Rehabilitation Administration (VRA) is the single DSE.

Public Housing Administration of the Department of Housing

Department of Health

Family and Child Administration of the Department of Family.

2. Organizations that deliver services to persons with disabilities:
  - Social and Educative Rehabilitation Program (eastern and north-central area)
  - Pro Independent Living Center (southern area)
3. Community representative (metro area of the Island)
4. Private business (northern area of the Island).
5. Advocacy representative (metro area of the Island).

## **Item 2 – Broad Range of Individuals with Disabilities from Diverse Backgrounds**

Describe how the SILC members represent a board range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds.

SILC members come from diverse backgrounds and represent a broad range of individuals with following disabilities: (2) physical, (2) sensory and (1) other. In addition, all members are Hispanic.

The advocate representative is a person with a sensory disability with a master's degree in deaf education and deaf studies. Has distinguished herself in the defense of the rights of the deaf population and for promoting their inclusion and integration in all aspects of society.

The community representative is a person with a physical disability with vast experience in the provision of services to the persons with disabilities. Has a bachelor degree in occupational therapy and a master's degree in education with a concentration in vocational evaluation.

The private business representative is person with a bachelor degree in chemical engineering. Worked as chemical plant manager and is currently a hydroponics consultant.

The center representative is a person with a medical condition and has a bachelor degree in psychology and mental health with concentration in rehabilitation services.

The representative from organizations that delivers services to persons with disabilities is a person with a physical disability and has a master's degree in vocational rehabilitation counseling.

### **Item 3 – Knowledgeable about IL**

Describe how SILC members are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services.

1. The SILC distributes the following information to newly appointed members:
  - a. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
  - b. What is a Center for Independent Living?
  - c. The philosophy of independent living
  - d. Duties and responsibilities
  - e. By Laws
2. SILC members are informed in the meetings of the CILs and CRPs contracted by the DSE for the provision of independent living services.
3. SILC members received quarterly the CEVI DICE e-newsletter with information about independent living services, independent living centers and philosophy of independent living.
4. The SILC has a website that allows the public to learn about the independent living centers, services, and philosophy of independent living.
5. The SILC is working on the development and update of the Council Member Manual.

## **Section C – SILC Staffing and Support**

### **Item 1 – SILC Staff**

Please provide the name and contact information for the SILC executive director. Indicate the number and titles of any other SILC staff, if applicable. Also, indicate whether any SILC staff is also a state agency employee.

1. Ivonne Flores-Pabón  
Executive Director  
PO Box 1621, Canovanas, PR 00729  
Phone No.: (787)757-8346 Fax No.: (787)757-8345  
[cevipr@prtc.net](mailto:cevipr@prtc.net)

2. Melanie Colon-Castro  
Secretary  
[cevil@prtc.net](mailto:cevil@prtc.net)

None of the SILC staff are state agency employees.

## **Item 2 – SILC Support**

Describe the administrative support services provided by the DSE, if any.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration as the single DSE of Puerto Rico SILC, provided the following administrative support:

### **Financial Support:**

The DSE received and distributed the funds allocated to the state under the Part B of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended, based on the approved plan. And provided \$40,000 from Innovation and Expansion (I&E) funds of Title I for the operations of the SILC

### **Technical Assistance:**

The DSE has a representative as an active ex-officio member on the SILC that participates in the regular meetings and is part of several committees.

### **Budget Development:**

The DSE in conjunction with the SILC, developed the resource plan to fulfill the duties and statutory obligations of the SILC.

## **Section D – SILC Duties**

Section 705(c); 34 CFR 364.21(g)

### **Item 1 – SILC Duties**

Provide a summary of SILC activities conducted during the reporting year related to the SILCs duties listed below:

#### **(A) State Plan Development**

The Puerto Rico SILC in collaboration with CIL's and CRP's developed a survey of consumer satisfaction with the independent living services. This year were revised and changed the satisfaction items and the demographics data. The consumers were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with six statements using a Likert-type scale that ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree with options to indicate that they were neutral or that the item was not applicable. The surveys were distributed by email to (5) CIL's and (2) CRP's to administered to their consumers. A total of 591 surveys were completed. Of these, 339

were administered person to person and 252 by phone. 20% of all consumers served by CVIs and PRCs completed the survey.

The quantity of consumers who completed the survey by center, are the following:

**167 (28%)** Movimiento para el Alcance de Vida Independiente (MAVI) Metro Region

**82 (14%)** MAVI East Region

**76 (13%)** MAVI North Region

**90 (15%)** MAVI Central Region

**75 (13%)** Centro Pro Vida Independiente (CEPVI) South Region

**50 (8%)** CEPVI Northwest

**21 (4%)** CEPVI Southwest

**30 (5%)** Programa de Asistencia para la Rehabilitación Educativa y Social (PARES) North-Central Region.

### **Satisfaction Items:**

1. *The CIL services were accessible.*

Of the 590 consumers who responded to this item, 522 are strongly agree with the statement, 64 are agreed and 4 are neutral. A clear majority responded strongly agree, the satisfaction score for this item was 89%.

2. *The CIL provided quality services and support.*

Of the 589 consumers who responded to this item, 518 are strongly agree with the statement, 63 are agreed and 8 are neutral. The satisfaction score for this item was 89%.

3. *The CIL services are essential in order to prevent unnecessary institutionalization.*

Of the 589 consumers who responded to this item, 508 are strongly agree with the statement, 69 are agreed, 8 are neutral, 2 are disagree and two responded that it does not apply. The satisfaction score for this item was 88%.

4. *The CIL services and support increase my feelings of confidence and control.*

Of the 588 consumers who responded to this item, 510 are strongly agree with the statement, 65 are agreed, 11 are neutral and two responded that it does not apply. The satisfaction score for this item was 88%.

5. *I would recommend the CIL program to a family member, friend or an acquaintance.*

Of the 591 consumers who responded to this item, 539 are strongly agree with the statement, 40 are agreed, 9 are neutral and three responded that it does not apply. The satisfaction score for this item was 92%.

6. *When receiving services at the CIL, I felt like I had control over the goals included in my independent living plan.*

Of the 589 consumers who responded to this item, 526 are strongly agree with the statement, 58 are agreed and 5 are neutral. The satisfaction score for this item was 90%.

Positive responses to the six satisfaction questions ranged from 88% to 92%. The overall satisfaction score for the Puerto Rico statewide independent living network was **89%**.

### **Demographic data**

Of the 591 surveyed, 275 identified their gender as a masculine, 257 feminine and 58 indicated unknown. Regarding the type of disability, 172 indicated that they have physical disability, 130 have cognitive disability, 106 listed multiple disability, 100 sensory disability and 83 have mental disability. The majority of respondents are 46 years of age or older and live with the family or relative.

### **(B) Monitor, Review and Evaluate the Implementation of the State Plan**

Describe any activities related to the monitoring, review and evaluation of the implementation of the state plan.

The SILC Evaluation Committee is in charge of monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the state plan. This is a permanent committee of the SILC as stated in Article XV of the by-laws.

The committee organized the objectives and activities of the 2017 SPIL into a report that includes performance indicators or outcome measures. The committee evaluated the SPIL objectives based on measurable criteria.

As part of the monitoring, review and evaluation process, the CILs and PRCs submit quarterly reports to the SILC on progress in achieving objectives stated in the SPIL. The reports are analyzed and the compliance percentage of each CIL and PRC is presented in a numerical and graphic format quarterly in committee meetings. A summary of accomplishments is also presented to SILC members in ordinary meetings.

The SPIL (2017) has twelve objectives. An analysis of the outcomes showed that most of the objectives are fully met, the overall compliance is 94%. One of the objectives was not met due mainly to the impact of two hurricanes on the island and three were partially met.

Additional, the SILC resource plan was monitored by the Finance Committee. A fiscal report is presented in every ordinary meeting. Adjustments are made to budget at least once a year.

### **(C) Coordination with Other Disability Councils**

Describe the SILC's coordination of activities with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) established under section 105, if the state has such a Council, or the commission described in section 101(a) (21) (A), if the state has such a commission, and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law. Please state



whether the SILC has at least one representative serving as a member of the SRC and whether the SILC has any members serving on other councils, boards or commissions in the state.

1. The chairperson represents the SILC at the SRC and has participated in ten meetings during this fiscal year.
2. The chairperson also represents the SILC at the Assistive Technology Program Advisory Board and has participated in five meetings during this fiscal year.
3. The SILC participates as a member of the HAVA Committee of the Puerto Rico State Electoral Commission and has participated in two meetings during this fiscal year.

#### **(D) Public Meeting Requirements**

Describe how the SILC has ensured that all regularly scheduled meetings and other public hearings and forums hosted by the SILC are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided.

The Puerto Rico SILC ensured that every meeting, public hearing and forum are open and announced with appropriated notice through our quarterly e-newsletter which has been published three times during this year and distributed to 2,661 people across the Island. Date, hour and place of the meetings are stated in the notification. The telephone and fax number as well as the electronic address is also included. A calendar of ordinary meetings indicating that they are open to the public is also prepared and posted in all CILs and DSE offices.

The Puerto Rico SILC also ensured reasonable accommodations by providing sign languages interpreters and materials in alternatives formats upon request.

#### **Item 2 – Other Activities**

Describe any other SILC activities funded by non-Part B funds.

1. Educational material was distributed to the community, independent living centers, consumers and other organizations. These include the SILC brochure, the CILs and independent living services in the Island brochure; and the independent living philosophy brochure. In addition, a directory of accessible transportation island wide was developed.
2. More than 2,800 compendium of laws that protect persons with disabilities was distributed via e-newsletter CEVI DICE or in printed version to the community, independent living center, consumers and other organizations.

3. The PRSILC maintained an accessible electronic webpage which presents the IL philosophy, services and other information of interest to persons with disabilities.
  
4. Support was offered for the celebration of independent living week through reasonable accommodations, such as language interpreter services and accessible transportation.

## **Section E – Training and Technical Assistance Needs**

Section 721(b)(3) of the Act

Please identify the SILC’s training and technical assistance needs. The needs identified in this chart will guide the priorities set by RSA for the training and technical assistance provided to CILs and SILCs.

	<b>Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important</b>
<b>Training and Technical Assistance Needs</b>	
<b>Advocacy/Leadership Development</b>	
General Overview	
Community/Grassroots Organizing	
Individual Empowerment	
Systems Advocacy	
Legislative Process	
<b>Applicable Laws</b>	
General overview and promulgation of various disability laws	
Americans with Disabilities Act	
Air-Carrier’s Access Act	
Fair Housing Act	
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act	
Medicaid/Medicare/PAS/waivers/long-term care	
Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended	
Social Security Act	
Workforce Investment Act of 1998	
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999	
Government Performance Results Act of 1993	

	<b>Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important</b>
<b>Training and Technical Assistance Needs</b>	
<b>Assistive Technologies</b>	
General Overview	
<b>Data Collecting and Reporting</b>	
General Overview	
704 Reports	
Performance Measures contained in 704 Report	
Dual Reporting Requirements	
Case Service Record Documentation	
<b>Disability Awareness and Information</b>	
Specific Issues	
<b>Evaluation</b>	
General Overview	
CIL Standards and Indicators	
Community Needs Assessment	1
Consumer Satisfaction Surveys	5
Focus Groups	6
Outcome Measures	4
<b>Financial: Grant Management</b>	
General Overview	
Federal Regulations	8
Budgeting	
Fund Accounting	
<b>Financial: Resource Development</b>	
General Overview	9
Diversification of Funding Base	
Fee-for-Service Approaches	
For Profit Subsidiaries	
Fund-Raising Events of Statewide Campaigns	
Grant Writing	
<b>Independent Living Philosophy</b>	
General Overview	

	<b>Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important</b>
<b>Training and Technical Assistance Needs</b>	
<b>Innovative Programs</b>	
Best Practices	
Specific Examples	
<b>Management Information Systems</b>	
Computer Skills	
Software	
<b>Marketing and Public Relations</b>	
General Overview	
Presentation/Workshop Skills	
Community Awareness	
<b>Networking Strategies</b>	
General Overview	10
Electronic	
Among CILs & SILCs	
Community Partners	
<b>Program Planning</b>	
General Overview of Program Management and Staff Development	
CIL Executive Directorship Skills Building	
Conflict Management and Alternative Dispute Resolution	
First-Line CIL Supervisor Skills Building	
IL Skills Modules	
Peer Mentoring	
Program Design	
Time Management	
Team Building	
<b>Outreach to Unserved/Underserved Populations</b>	
General Overview	
Disability	
Minority	
Institutionalized Potential Consumers	
Rural	
Urban	

<b>Training and Technical Assistance Needs</b>	<b>Choose up to 10 Priority Needs — Rate items 1-10 with 1 being most important</b>
<b>SILC Roles/Relationship to CILs</b>	
General Overview	
Development of State Plan for Independent Living	2
Implementation (monitor & review) of SPIL	3
Public Meetings	
Role and Responsibilities of Executive Board	
Role and Responsibilities of General Members	7
Collaborations with In-State Stakeholders	
<b>CIL Board of Directors</b>	
General Overview	
Roles and Responsibilities	
Policy Development	
Recruiting/Increasing Involvement	
<b>Volunteer Programs</b>	
General Overview	
<b>Optional Areas and/or Comments (write-in)</b>	

# **SUBPART VI – SPIL COMPARISON AND UPDATES, OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF THE REPORTING YEAR**

Section 704(m)(4) of the Act; 34 CFR 76.140

## **Section A – Comparison of Reporting Year Activities with the SPIL**

### **Item 1 – Progress in Achieving Objectives and Goals**

Describe progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the most recently approved SPIL. Discuss goals achieved and/or in progress as well as barriers encountered.

PR SILC 2017-2019 includes three goals and twelve objectives. An analysis of the SPIL performance indicators showed that the percentage of compliance with goals and objectives of the SPIL were as follows:

**CILs:**

CEPVI	99.59%
MAVI North Region	88.87%
MAVI Central Region	98.64%
MAVI East Region	91.65%
MAVI Metro Region	99.80%

**CRPs:**

PARES	97.21%
CEPVI Northwest Region	97.67%
CEPVI Southwest Region	95.05%

SILC	88.66%
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The overall compliance is 95%.

Progress made in achieving the objectives and goals outlined in the SPIL:

Goal 1: Persons with disabilities have the necessary independent living services and other complementary services.

Objective 1.a: That persons with disabilities receive independent living core services (information and referral, peer counseling, individual and system advocacy, development of independent living skills and transition), and other complementary services.

Number of persons with disabilities receive independent living core services:

- CILs provided independent living core services to 2,101 persons with disabilities. Exceeding the target of 1,870 and 278 more than the previous year.
- 972 persons received information and referral services through the community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) contracted by the DSE exceeding the goal established of 402 and 287 more than the previous year.
- In order to increase the number of consumers served for each municipality by region, a goal was established within each service area. Although the overall goal of consumers served was exceeded, in some regions the goal by municipalities was not accomplished. The percentage of compliance by region were as follows:

CILs:	
CEPVI	94%
MAVI North Region	74%
MAVI Central Region	97%
MAVI East Region	82%
MAVI Metro Region	100%
CRPs:	
PARES	100%
CEPVI Northwest Region	100%
CEPVI Southwest Region	100%

Previous year the goal was not reached in 37% of the municipalities. This year the percentage of non-compliance by municipality significantly decreased to 17%. CILs and CRPs used different strategies that were successful in reaching the underserved areas. Some of these strategies were: establishing collaborative agreements with the municipalities, visiting community schools to facilitate the transition of young people with disabilities and the pilot program "MAVI on wheels" that brings independent living services directly to isolated communities.

A great challenge on the island is to identify the people with disabilities who are institutionalized. In order to elaborate strategies aimed at the placement of this population in community homes, the SILC in collaboration with CILs implemented the following strategies:

- Created a working committee with the following government agencies and other organizations: Centers of Independent Living (CIL), Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRP), Department of Health, Department of Housing, Authority for financing Housing, Department of Family, Department of Transportation and Public Work, Defense of People with Disabilities, Puerto Rico Technology

Assistance Program, Graduate School of Rehabilitation Counseling, and a representative of the DSE.

- The committee met twice during the fiscal year.
- A strategic plan was developed for the identification of the institutionalized population and the transfer of this population to community homes with the support needed.
- In addition, MAVI centers facilitated a total of nineteen (19) support meetings for parents and caregivers to prevent the institutionalization of persons with disabilities.

Other complementary services to develop independent living skills were offered by the MAVI centers:

- A summer camp with the participation of seventy-seven (67) people with disabilities. This activity was partially completed, the target was 80.
- Nine (9) annual meetings through the MAVI ALL STARS Program that provided leadership skills, self-esteem, and empowerment to eighteen persons with disabilities in the metro region. Exceeding the target of 6.

Two activities of this objective was not completed successfully. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is pending to be signed between the CILs and the VRA (DSE) to promotes the referrals and related services to youth in transition. In addition, the literacy program was suspended due to lack of funds.

Objective 1.b: That persons with disabilities know the community services available.

The CVI and CRP carried out various educational activities to increase knowledge about the services available in the community.

- The centers of MAVI guide one hundred thirty-four (134) consumers about the services offered by public and private agencies in their region and how to access them through internet or smart phone. Exceeding the target of 16.
- The CPR called PARES offered guidance to fifty-five (55) consumers in the north central region. Exceeding the target of 6.
- CEPVI developed and distributed forty (40) directories of educational institutions on the south region to their consumers and coordinated visits to the Ponce Art Museum, impacting thirty-seven (37) consumers, exceeding the target of 20.



Objective 1.c: That persons with disabilities have access to health services.

Several health educational activities related to prevention, good health and physical well-being were performed during this years. Overall, MAVI centers carried out forty-six (46) educational activities and two more by CEPVI. Other, five educational activities in the Northwest region by CEPVI.

- MAVI centers organized five (6) health fairs and PARES coordinated two (2) in two towns served by the region.
- The Team MAVI group developed six (6) activities of conditioning and physical well-being during the fiscal year, impacting 36 consumers. Exceeding the target of 4 activities.
- CEPVI coordinated five (5) participation and social integration activities, impacting fifty- nine (59) consumers during the fiscal year. Exceeding the target of 2 activities.
- CEPVI coordinated one (1) workshop about prevention of domestic violence, sixteen (16) consumers participated in this activity.

Objective 1.d: That persons with disabilities benefit from accessible transportation services.

- MAVI Metro Region provided transportation services to thirty-four (34) consumers and CEPVI to thirty-seven (37) consumers. Both centers exceeded the target set for this fiscal year.
- CEPVI provided eighty-six (86) orientations to persons with disabilities on the requirements for obtaining a driver's license and removable signs; identification of traffic signals, signs, pedestrians/cyclists rules and road safety. Exceeding the target of 55 persons.
- CEPVI Northwest orientated forty-two (42) and PARES oriented sixty-five (65) consumers. Both centers exceeded the target set for this fiscal year.
- A total of seven hundred and sixty-five (765) directories of accessible transportation by region was distributed to persons with disabilities who reside in the service areas of the CILs and CRPs. One directory of island wide accessible transportation was developed by the SICL.

Objective 1.e: That persons with disabilities have access to assistive technology services (AT).

- The CILs distributed six hundred and twenty-two (622) directories of AT services available in the community, during the fiscal year. Exceeding the target of 500.
- CEPVI coordinated with different agencies the provision of AT services for forty-four (44) consumers. Exceeding the target of 15 consumers.

Objective 1.f: That persons with disabilities have access to employment.

This objective is intended to provide support services in employment, benefits counseling and educated on the American with Disabilities Act.

- MAVI Metro region provided support employment services to thirty-two (32) persons with disabilities referred by the VRA. Exceeding the target of 10 consumers. Also, activates the Ticket to Work for fifty-eight (58) beneficiaries of the Social Security Disability Insurance. Exceeding the target of 10.
- PARES provided support employment services to twenty-six (26) consumers referred by the VRA. Exceeding the target of 15 consumers.
- MAVI oriented one thousand and forty-one (1,041) beneficiaries of the Social Security Disability Insurance on Ticket to Work through the WIPA Program. Exceeding the target of 300 beneficiaries.
- CEPVI and CEPVI Northwest offered (4) educational activities on employment opportunities. Assisted seventy-two (72) persons in total. Both centers exceeded the target.
- MAVI and PARES trained a total of thirty-nine (39) employers on the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements of employing persons with disabilities. Both centers exceeded the target.

Goal 2: Persons with disabilities exercise control in decision-making and intercede for system changes.

Objective 2.a: That persons with disabilities know their rights and responsibilities.

- The CILs and CRPs offered twenty-nine (29) workshops on the laws protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Attended six hundred and fifty-four (654) persons.

- During the fiscal year the CILs, provided orientation to two hundred and twenty-eight (228) consumers on topics related to safety and emergency management.
- MAVI offered sixty-eight (68) activities based on self-management and empowerment.

Objective 2.b: That persons with disabilities intercede for their rights.

- The CILs, CRPs and SILC celebrated an activity on advocacy titled: Defending Our Inclusion in the House of Laws as part of the celebration of the Independent Living Week. This activity was accomplished with the collaboration of State Legislature, DSE and the Defender of the People with Disabilities. One hundred and fifty-three (153) people participated.
- MAVI carried out six (6) advocacy activities to promote an increase in alternatives of accessible transportation on the east, central, north and metro region. One hundred and fifty (150) consumers participated. Exceeding the target of 4 advocacy activities.
- MAVI promoted the leadership of young people with disabilities through nineteen (19) workshops in the central, east, north and metro region. Exceeding the target of 16 workshops.
- CEPVI and CEPVI Northwest accomplished the participation of forty-five (45) persons with disabilities in community advocacy activities such as public hearings, presentations on radio and television programs, among others. Exceeding the target of 18.

Objective 2.c: That persons with disabilities have greater access to housing services.

- The SILC in collaboration with MAVI Metro developed a symposium of community life for the awareness on universal design for contractors and designers. Unfortunately, this activity had to be canceled due to the impact of hurricane María in Puerto Rico.
- With the collaboration of university students, MAVI Metro developed and disseminated through social networks an information capsule to raise awareness about the benefits of a universal housing design.
- CEPVI coordinated one educational activity with the Ponce Neighborhood Housing Service and the other one with the Defender of People with Disabilities. Nineteen (19) people participated.

Objective 2.d: That persons with disabilities express their needs and satisfaction for services received.

- During this fiscal year, the SILC with the collaboration of the CILs and PRCs developed a new instrument to measure the satisfaction of consumers. A total of five hundred and ninety-one (591) consumers were surveyed about their satisfaction with the services. 20% of all consumers served by CVIs and PRCs completed the survey. The overall satisfaction score for the Puerto Rico statewide independent living network was **89%**.

Goal 3: The community at large knows about the independent living philosophy and services.

Objective 3.a: That the community knows about the independent living philosophy and services and other related information.

- The CILs and CRPs provided one hundred and twelve (112) orientations about the independent living philosophy and services and other related information. Other media such as radio, television programs and an accessible website were used to disseminate the independent living philosophy. Exceeding the target of 64 orientations.
- The Independent Living Week was celebrated in compliance with the Law No. 54 of April 11 of 2002 as designates the first week of May as the Independent Living Week to create awareness on how IL services contribute to the effective integration of persons with disabilities into society.
- MAVI provided courses in sign language and deaf culture to two hundred and seventy-three (273) persons in the community. Exceeding the target of 40 persons.
- CEPVI continues with its annual campaign known as *CEPVI Llega a Ti* on the philosophy and independent living services in all the municipalities that are part of the southern region of the island. Three hundred and eighty-nine (389) people were reached.
- CEPVI offered the opportunity to seven (7) university students from the southern region to complete an internship with the purpose of educating them in the philosophy of independent living. Exceeding the target of 3 students.
- CEPVI participated at five (5) service fairs at the municipalities served by the region. CEPVI Northwest participated at six (6) and PARES participated at three (3).

- The SILC and MAVI attended at the Annual NCIL Activity with the purpose of increasing knowledge on issues related to the independent living philosophy.

Objective 3.b: That the community is aware on the rights and dignity towards persons with disabilities.

- The CILs and PRCs provided fifty-three (53) educational talks on sensitivity, ADA and other related laws, impacting one thousand five hundred and ninety-eight (1,598) persons during the fiscal year. Exceeding the target of 32 activities.
- The SILC published the CEVI DICE e-newsletter with approved laws and draft legislation to benefit persons with disabilities. The bulletin had three (3) edition and served two thousand six hundred and sixty-one (2,661) persons through electronic media. In addition, PR SILC kept updated quarterly the compendium of State and Federal laws that protect the population with disabilities and distributes it in alternative formats at the request of the community.

## **Item 2 – SPIL Information Updates**

If applicable, describe any changes to the information contained in the SPIL that occurred during the reporting year, including the placement, legal status, membership or autonomy of the SILC; the SILC resource plan, the design of the statewide network of centers; and the DSU administration of the SILS program.

- During the reporting period, the SILC became a nonprofit organization properly authorized by the Puerto Rico Department of State.

## **Section B– Significant Activities and Accomplishments**

If applicable, describe any significant activities and accomplishments achieved by the DSU and SILC not included elsewhere in the report, e.g. brief summaries of innovative practices, improved service delivery to consumers, etc.

- **Collaboration:**

During the reporting period, the PRSILC reached a collaborative agreement with the Defender of People with Disabilities in order to join efforts to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in all areas of society.

- **Expansion of the independent living network:**

During the reporting period, the southwest area of Puerto Rico comprising the municipalities of Cabo Rojo, Hormigueros, Lajas, Maricao, Sabana Grande y San German, began to be partially served by an Office of Information and Referral subsidize with Part B fund granted to CEPVI. At the end of this period, 105 consumers have been served.

### **Section C – Substantial Challenges**

If applicable, describe any substantial problems encountered by the DSU and SILC, not included elsewhere in this report, and discuss resolutions/attempted resolutions, e.g., difficulty in outreach efforts; disagreements between the SILC and the DSU; complications recruiting SILC members; complications working with other state agencies or organizations within the state.

### **Section D – Additional Information**

Include any additional information, suggestions, comments or explanations not included elsewhere in the report.

## SUBPART VII - SIGNATURES

Please sign and print the names, titles and telephone numbers of the DSU directors(s) and SILC chairperson.

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	DATE
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Evelyn Martínez-Fuentes, Chairperson

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NAME AND TITLE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON	DATE
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SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR	DATE
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NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR	PHONE NUMBER
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SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR (Older Blind Program)	DATE
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NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR (Older Blind Program)	PHONE NUMBER
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