

Independent Living Research Utilization



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SPIIL Training and Technical Assistance Monthly Series

Section 3: Network of Centers

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Today's Focus on SPIL Sections

- 3.1 Existing Centers
- 3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

Instructions and Instrument

State Plan for Independent Living Instructions and Instrument

- This link will take you to a direct download of the latest instructions for the SPIL (expiring in 2026) and the instrument, which is the template for filling out your State Plan.
- **NOTE FOR LINK:** *All instructions* (language not included in the SPIL Instrument itself) *are in italics*.

3.1 Existing Centers

Instrument Language:

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

3.1 Existing Centers

Instructions Language:

- List the CILs located in the state including:
 - Legal name of the CIL
 - Geographic area/counties served by the CIL (full CIL services vs. limited services – for example, a program provided in areas not served by the CIL for core services or a satellite office of a CIL that provides the core services but not all of the services provided by the full CIL)
 - Current sources of funding– not including amounts (Part B, Part C, State General Revenue, Other Federal, Other)
- Explain the criteria for defining the CIL network, bearing in mind that those CILs included in the network should be those eligible to sign the SPIL.

3.1 Existing Centers-Example From Instructions

Legal name	Counties served	Funding source(s)	Oversight process	Oversight entity	SPIIL Signatory (yes/no)
CIL, INC. (dba The CIL)	Apple, Orange, Pineapple	Part B, Part C, State General Revenue, SSA	CIL submits CIL PPR to ACL/OILP [and submits PPR to DSE]	ACL/OILP	Yes

3.2 Expansion and Adjustment of Network

Instrument Language:

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

Instructions Language: Provide a detailed description of the plans for expanding, building, and/or adjusting the statewide network of CILs based on increased funding, new funding, one-time funding, or cuts in funding, including but not limited to: (every bullet point needs a detailed description).

*** Remember: The SPIL may be amended by agreement of the SILC and a majority of the CILs, when needed. If details are not specific enough, there could be significant delays in the distribution of new funding.*

3.2 Instructions, cont.:

- **Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.**
 - (Note: In Section 2.2, you have defined “unserved” and “underserved” for outreach, and the SPIL instructions include the general definitions of these terms for the purposes of these sections. For more information on [Section 2.2, review the linked presentation](#).
- **Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to ensure that each Center receives at least the minimum.**
 - Note: This minimum funding figure may vary based on the needs identified by your network of CILs, cost-of-living rates, geography, etc.

3.2 Instructions, cont.:

- **Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).**
 - Note: Some states do not have “unserved” areas, but they may have underserved areas.
- **Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes.**
 - Note: Consider including guidance/instructions for what ACL or the DSE should do for both Part C and Part B funds should a Center close or if Part B funds are removed from the Center.

3.2 Instructions, cont.:

- **Plan to build capacity of existing CILs and/or expand statewide reach by establishing branch offices and/or satellites of existing CILs.**
 - Note: This is where the IL Network will state its strategy for either establishing new Centers, ensuring the current CIL network is funded at the minimum level, or enhancing capacity at current centers.
- **Plan/formula for distribution of new funds (Part B, Part C, one-time funds, etc.)**
 - Note: Consider including the plans for various scenarios of increases of current funds or new funds and how they will be distributed across the CIL Network. What are the priorities? Is the state trying to ensure all Centers receive minimum funding levels? Or should everything be split evenly?

3.2 Instructions, cont.:

- Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced.
 - Note: Thoroughly planning for the scenarios of increases or decreases in Part B or Part C funds will reduce any confusion or delay in implementing changes by ACL or the DSE.
- Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

3.2 Instructions, cont.:

- Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible. Include:
 - CILs included in the change
 - New counties/areas assigned to (or removed from) involved CILs
 - Changes in funding or state “no funding changes needed.”

Order of priorities

The Rehab Act sets an order of priorities for how funds should be used:

(e) The Administrator shall be guided by the following order of priorities in allocating funds among centers for independent living within a State, to the extent funds are available:

- (1) The Administrator shall support existing centers for independent living, as described in subsection (c), that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f–4 of this title, at the level of funding for the previous year.
- (2) The Administrator shall provide for a cost-of-living increase for such existing centers for independent living.
- (3) The Administrator shall fund new centers for independent living, as described in subsection (d), that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 796f–4 of this title.

29 USC 796e

Order of priorities

What this Means:

1. Funding should support existing Centers first.
2. If additional funds are available, a Cost-of-Living increase can be made to existing centers.
3. If there are additional funds, ACL can fund new Centers in the State

Of note, is that there may be a situation when funding has increased, all Part C Centers receive a cost-of-living increase, but there are not enough funds to establish a new Center (remember, the SPIL outlines what the minimum funding level should be to establish a new Center). This situation should be outlined in Section 3.2

For on-going technical assistance, contact:

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Resources

- [The Rehabilitation Act:](#)
- [Independent Living Regulations:](#)
- [State Plan for Independent Living Instructions and Instrument:](#)
- [SILC Indicators](#)

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