

**STATE PLAN FOR  
INDEPENDENT LIVING  
(SPIIL)**

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

**STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES (SILS) PROGRAM- PART B**  
Centers for Independent Living (CIL) Program- Part C

**FISCAL YEARS 2008-10**

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

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## **PART I: Assurances**

State of: NEVADA

### **Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications**

- 1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs is the State of Nevada Rehabilitation Division. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.22(a)*
- 1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind is not applicable in Nevada. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(1) and (2); 34 CFR 364.20(d) and 364.22(c)*
- 1.3 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 the Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council. *34 CFR 364.21(a)*
- 1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(7); 34 CFR 364.20(c) and (d)*
- 1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL. *34 CFR 76.104; 34 CFR 80.11(c)*
- 1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(4) and (8)*
- 1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Dr. Michael Coleman, Administrator, Rehabilitation Division, Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. *34 CFR 76.104(a)(5) and (6)*

### **Section 2: SPIL Development**

- 2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:
  - the provision of State independent living services;

- the development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living; and
  - working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities. *34 CFR 364.20(f)*
- 2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(1)*
- 2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and SILC shall provide:
- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings (that is, at least 30 days prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC);
  - reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
  - public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication. *34 CFR 364.20(g)(2)*
- 2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. *34 CFR 364.20(h)*
- 2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective. *34 CFR 364.28*
- 2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.20(e)*

### **Section 3: Independent Living Services**

- 3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds. *34 CFR 364.43(b)*
- 3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. *34 CFR 364.43(c)*
- 3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:
- the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
  - the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
  - how to contact the CAP. *34 CFR 364.30*
- 3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. *34 CFR 365.31(c)*

### **Section 4: Eligibility**

- 4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51. *34 CFR 364.40(a), (b) and (c)*
- 4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services. *34 CFR 364.41(a)*
- 4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services. *34 CFR 364.41(b)*

### **Section 5: Staffing Requirements**

- 5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. *34 CFR 364.23(a)*
- 5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act; and
- in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act. *34 CFR 364.23(b)*

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy. *34 CFR 364.24*

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. *34 CFR 364.31*

## **Section 6: Fiscal Control And Fund Accounting**

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds. *34 CFR 364.34*

## **Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting**

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. *34 CFR 364.35(a) and (b)*

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by *34 CFR 364.35*, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate. *34 CFR 364.36*

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews. 34 CFR 364.37

**Section 8: Protection, Use, and Release of Personal Information**

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6). 34 CFR 364.56(a)

**Section 9: Signatures**

After having carefully reviewed all of the assurances in sections 1 - 8 of this SPIL, the undersigned hereby affirm that the State of Nevada is in compliance and will remain in compliance with the aforementioned assurances during FY 2008-2010.

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2007

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

DATE

Mary Evilsizer

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NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

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SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR

DATE

Dr. Michael T. Coleman, Administrator

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NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR

Not Applicable

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SIGNATURE OF DIRECTOR OF THE SEPARATE STATE AGENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

DATE

Not Applicable

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NAME AND TITLE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE SEPARATE STATE AGENCY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND

## Part II: Narrative

### Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

#### 1.1 Goals and Mission – 34 CFR 364.42(b)(1)

**Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the SPIL administered by that agency.**

#### Mission:

To provide systems and resources at the community level which promote equal opportunity and life choices for people with disabilities, through which they may live independently in the community of their choice and control their lives.

The guiding principles of the Nevada State Plan for Independent Living are:

- People with disabilities must be involved in all levels of policy and decision-making, which will potentially impact their lives.
- Private/public sector partnerships are key to effective service delivery, programmatic success, and community integration for people with disabilities.
- The people most knowledgeable about disability impacts and issues are those who have experienced them first-hand.

#### Goals:

##### Goal 1

Promote a philosophy of independent living, by: prioritizing consumer control through the use of independent living service plans among at least 90% of those applying for services; ensuring community integration through the cooperative implementation of Nevada's Olmstead Plan; achieving diversity among those served through demographic tracking and targeted outreach; and improving personal security through the integration of disability issues in disaster preparedness plans.

##### Goal 2

Expand and improve the provision of IL services throughout Nevada by: providing comprehensive IL services to at least 175 people annually; supplementing, by at least 10% annually, the state and federal appropriations earmarked for direct IL services; coordinating services to older individuals who are blind; expanding the availability of Positive Behavioral Supports in southern Nevada; expanding the provision of community-based supports available to



individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury and behavioral services for children with Autism; and by including nursing home transition costs among the expenses covered by Nevada's Independent Living services program.

### Goal 3

Support a statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, cross-disability, nonprofit agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services, and strengthen this network by: diversifying its grant funding base; exploring options for offering fee services; and negotiating with Nevada Medicaid to potentially manage the State's physical disability waiver.

### Goal 4

Support the improvement, expansion and coordination of disability services throughout Nevada and work in concert with the efforts under Nevada's Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities, by: better coordinating the transitions of children and youth with disabilities from early intervention to school, and from school to adult life; making all disability services more easily and universally accessible; and by expanding the resources available to blind adults in Nevada's largest population center.

## **1.2 Objectives – 34 CFR 364.42(a)(1) and (d); 34 CFR 364.32; 34 CFR 364.33**

### **1.2A Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.**

#### Objective 1.1

Ensure that services are provided in accordance with an independent living plan mutually developed between the consumer, service provider staff and, if appropriate, with input from an independent expert, by at least 90% of those applying for services.

Plan: 90% of individuals seeking services under the Independent Living Services Program will develop an IL Plan. The waiver of plan option will be made available to those desiring a waiver.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least 90% of those individuals applying between 10/1/07 and 9/30/08 will have developed an IL plan. 9/30/09- at least 90% of those individuals applying between 10/1/08 and 9/30/09 will have developed an IL plan. 9/30/10- at least 90% of those individuals applying between 10/1/09 and 9/30/10 will have developed an IL plan.

#### Objective 1.2

Ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, services for people with disabilities are provided in the most integrated setting, by implementing the objectives outlined in Nevada's Olmstead Plan.

Plan: The Council will work cooperatively with Medicaid, the Office of Disability Services, the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee and other relevant entities to spearhead initiatives in the spirit of the Olmstead decision. This work may include Money Follows the Person, self-directed services in Medicaid, the expansion and

improvement of community-based personal assistance and Early Intervention services, and the promotion of competitive employment.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least 3 Olmstead Plan Objectives will have been implemented in the previous federal fiscal year. 9/30/09- at least 3 additional Olmstead Plan Objectives will have been implemented in the previous federal fiscal year. 9/30/10- at least 3 additional Olmstead Plan Objectives will have been implemented in the previous federal fiscal year. A total of nine additional objectives will be completed during the term of the SPIL

### Objective 1.3

Ensure that services to underserved populations are provided at least in proportion to their population in the latest census data.

Plan: Grants to community-based entities will include provisions for targeted outreach to underserved consumers. Grants will be monitored for the proportion of underserved consumers assisted and those outcomes will be reported on an annual basis, as follows: At least 24% of those served will be age 16 or under; at least 11% of those served will be age 65 or older; at least 7% of those served will be African Americans; at least 20% of those served will be Hispanic Americans; and at least 12% of those served will be below poverty.

Time Frame: These demographics will be measured at the conclusion of each year and, if a target population is not being adequately reached, an outreach plan will be developed to specifically target that population.

### Objective 1.4

Improve disaster preparedness for people with disabilities.

Plan: The SILC and CILs will work to ensure that people with disabilities are included in state and local disaster preparedness plans; that Nevadans with disabilities receive specific information on how they can prepare themselves for a disaster; and, that people who are deaf or have communication disabilities have better access to information during a disaster.

Time Frame: By 9/30/10, the needs and issues of people with disabilities will be included in the State's disaster preparedness plan.

### Objective 2.1

Provide an appropriate, accessible, and affordable network of independent living rehabilitation services throughout Nevada, to at least 175 new individuals annually.

Plan: Provide full-time case managers in Reno and Las Vegas to assist people with disabilities throughout the State to obtain the services, devices, equipment and modifications they need to maintain their community independence. Their duties will include:

Finding individuals in need of services; assisting them to file an application, assess needs and plan services; assisting them to locate other resources and gather bids; following the provision of services and evaluating services to assure quality; providing assistive technology assessments via outside expertise; advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities to gain access to services from sources in addition to the Independent Living program; participating in community activities, events, and decision-making bodies; and advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least 175 people will have received services in the previous federal fiscal year. 9/30/09- at least 175 additional people will have received services in the previous federal fiscal year. 9/30/10- at least 175 additional people will have received services in the previous federal fiscal year.

## Objective 2.2

Supplement the state and federal appropriations earmarked for direct IL services by at least \$100,000 annually.

Plan: The SILC and the DSU will monitor opportunities for additional funding wherever it may be available and those opportunities will be shared and pursued with partner agencies.

When their advice is sought, the SILC will advise the Nevada Legislature and executive branch departments on issues related to independent living, including the expansion and improvement of service programs.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least \$100,000 will have been secured to supplement state and federal IL services funding during the previous year. 9/30/09- at least \$100,000 will have been secured to supplement state and federal IL services funding during the previous year. 9/30/10- at least \$100,000 will have been secured to supplement state and federal IL services funding during the previous year.

## Objective 2.3

Coordinate services to older individuals who are blind through the execution of a cooperative agreement between the DSU's Older-Blind Independent Living Program and the Independent Living Services Program.

Plan: Nevada's Older-Blind program has shown strength and expertise in assessing needs and providing mobility training. The Independent Living program has demonstrated an ability to garner financial resources to fund the assistive technology needs of individuals who are blind. A cooperative agreement will be executed, whereby the two programs will cooperatively serve older-blind individuals during the term of the SPIL.

Time Frame: By 12/31/07 a cooperative agreement will be fully in place.

## Objective 2.4

Increase funding for Positive Behavioral Supports and similar services so that individuals with

difficult behaviors will be better able to receive services in their local community, particularly in southern Nevada which has been historically underserved.

Plan: Working with service provider agencies, the SILC will educate policymakers and funding bodies on the value and importance of positive behavioral interventions as a first step in successful service provision and will propose the provision of at least \$100,000 in annual funding to support those services, especially in the underserved Las Vegas area.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least \$100,000 will have been added to SFY 07 funding for expanded PBS services in southern Nevada during the previous year. 9/30/09- at least \$100,000 will have been added to SFY 07 funding for expanded PBS services in southern Nevada during the previous year. 9/30/10- at least \$100,000 will have been added to SFY 07 funding for expanded PBS services in southern Nevada during the previous year.

#### Objective 2.5

Expand the availability of community-based supports, especially Personal Assistance Services, for individuals with cognitive disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury.

Plan: The SILC will partner with the Personal Assistance Services Council and the Traumatic Brain Injury Council to create a web-based training program to educate caregivers in the general nuances of serving people with Traumatic Brain Injury, and to begin the provision of Personal Assistance Services to individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury through the state-funded Personal Assistance Services program.

Time Frame: The provision of Personal Assistance Services will begin no later than 12/31/07 and will increase the number of people served by at least 10% annually. The web-based training program will be fully implemented by 6/30/08.

#### Objective 2.6

Expand the availability of behavioral intervention services for children with Autism.

Plan: The SILC and CILs will work cooperatively with the Office of Disability Services, the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services and the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee to secure at least \$500,000 in additional annual funding for behavioral services.

Time Frame: 9/30/08- at least \$500,000 will have been added to SFY 07 funding for additional behavioral intervention services during the previous year. 9/30/09- at least \$500,000 will continue to be available for additional behavioral intervention services in the previous year. 9/30/10- at least \$500,000 will continue to be available for additional behavioral intervention services in the previous year.

#### Objective 2.7

Expand the array of IL services offered to include the costs of transition from a nursing facility to community based-living.

Plan: The SILC and CILs will work cooperatively to draft a policy to expand state-

funded IL services to include rental deposits, basic household items and other one-time costs. Partnerships will be sought with merchants and others to minimize the cost of offering these supports.

Time Frame: A new policy will be approved and implemented in the IL program by 9/30/08.

### Objective 3.1

Diversify the funding base of Nevada's Centers for Independent Living to lessen their dependence of federal Independent Living funding and to broaden the array of services and supports they offer

Plan: The SILC and/or CILs will pursue at least two federal grants, partnerships with state agencies, or private foundation grants that will mutually benefit the CILs, the partner agencies and people with disabilities.

Time Frame: By 9/30/10, Nevada's IL partners will formally apply for or pursue at least two partnership opportunities to diversify the funding base of our CILs.

### Objective 3.2

Explore options to add fee-for-service operations to the menu of CIL services

Plan: CILs in other states have successfully added fee services to their menu of services to supplement their grant and donation funding. The SILC and the CILs will research the strategies used in other states to determine if they can be adapted in Nevada.

Time Frame: By 9/30/09, Nevada's CILs will research and report on the options and opportunities that exist for offering fee services.

### Objective 3.3

Explore the feasibility of having Nevada's CILs assume management responsibility for Nevada Medicaid's physical disability waiver

Plan: Nevada Medicaid has expressed a desire to transfer responsibility for their physical disability waiver to an outside agency. They have already taken this course with their three other waiver programs. The SILC believes that Nevada's CILs might be a good fit for the program, if a transfer can be made without diminishing other CIL programs. Thus, the CIL will seek consultation from other states and national organizations in the operation of waivers by CILs, and will enter discussions with Medicaid about the possible terms of a transfer.

Time Frame: By 9/30/08, Nevada's CILs will research and report on the options and opportunities that exist for managing the state's physical disability waiver.

### Objective 4.1

Improve the transition of students from Early Intervention to school, and from school to work or

college.

Plan: The SILC and DSU will work with the Strategic Plan Accountability Committee, the legislature and relevant stakeholders to improve the continuum of services for children with disabilities. This will include improving the cooperation of agencies during the transition processes, and ensuring that service agencies are looking at all the needs a child has and are making referrals to other resources.

Time Frame: By 12/31/07 Nevada will develop and submit a federal Real Choice Systems Change grant application to strengthen transition services. By 12/31/08, a report outlining specific recommendations for improving transition services will be drafted and presented to the Nevada Legislature and relevant state agencies.

#### Objective 4.2

Promote universal access to disability services through the leveraging of telephone and Internet technologies.

Plan: Work in collaboration with the State of Nevada, advocacy groups and the United Way to replicate systems developed in other states including the development and funding of web-based resources, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, shared data and streamlined application processes.

Time Frame: By 9/30/08 there will be at least four ADRCs operating in Nevada and by 9/30/10 the state's CILs will have electronic access to link individuals needing services with the ADRCs. By 9/30/09 Nevada's 211 system will be available on a statewide basis.

#### Objective 4.3

Establish one or more community-based training and support centers for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Plan: Working with leaders from the blind community, the SILC and DSU will offer resources to improve community-based capacities to serve the independent living needs of people with visual disabilities.

Time Frame: By 9/30/09 a strategic plan will be drafted for the establishment of a training and support center. By 9/30/10 services will begin through the center.

**1.2B Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations. This section of the SPIL must:**

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts;**
- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside; and**

**– Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed.**

Outreach to underserved populations is an integral part of Nevada’s IL programs. Each grant or contract contains specific objectives for reaching traditionally underserved populations, however the Nevada SILC believes that outreach must be intentional and measurable. The need for outreach is measured by assessing the percentage of an underserved group among those receiving services, compared to the percentage of that group in the overall state or county population. This approach ensures that outreach is not done for the sake of a federal report, but for the sake of real outcomes, and that outreach resources are allocated to reaching those populations that are truly underserved. The populations generally tracked for needed outreach include: children, seniors, those in rural communities (outside of Reno and Las Vegas), those of lower income, and various minority populations.

Once in the program, minority populations are served with the same respect and urgency as every other individual. However, should anyone need special assistance such as an interpreter, those accommodations are provided without cost.

In the past year, Nevada did not reach its objectives for serving school-age children and Hispanics. Therefore, during the first year of the SPIL, outreach will be specifically targeted to these individuals.

Children will be reached through three separate strategies. First, in-service training will be provided to special education teachers around the state in order to educate them in the supports available to kids with disabilities outside of school. Second, Independent Living services will be coordinated with early intervention services to support children who are coming of school age and who will need supports at home and in the community. Third, an initiative will be undertaken to expand the Autism intervention services available through the IL program, which are specifically offered to school-age children.

The Hispanic population has been historically difficult to reach because, in our experience, of a cultural aversion to the acknowledgement of disability and a need for help. Efforts will be undertaken to reach this population in the schools, through the Hispanic chambers of commerce, and through the Hispanic media which has grown substantially in recent years.

In each year of this SPIL, Nevada will similarly assess and re-target outreach to appropriate populations.

**1.3 Financial Plan – 34 CFR 364.42(a)(2) and (3); 34 CFR 364.29**

**Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the SPIL objectives.**

**1.3A Financial Plan Tables**

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

- Insert additional rows for the specific funding sources and amounts expected within the categories of Other Federal Funds and Non-Federal Funds.

**Year 1**

<b>Sources</b>	<b>Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses</b>			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
<b>Title VII Funds</b>				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$54,000	\$247,777		
Chapter 1, Part C			\$780,946	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other			\$116,430	
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>				
State Funds		\$1,015,750		\$95,900
Other		\$104,000	\$453,988	

**Year 2**

<b>Sources</b>	<b>Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses</b>			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities



<b>Title VII Funds</b>				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$56,625	\$244,852		
Chapter 1, Part C			\$796,637	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other			\$97,025	
<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>				
State Funds		\$1,015,750		\$120,100
Other			\$365,356	

**Year 3**

<u>Sources</u>	<u>Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses</u>			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
<b>Title VII Funds</b>				
Chapter 1, Part B	\$59,375	\$242,102		
Chapter 1, Part C			\$813,346	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
<b>Other Federal Funds</b>				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other			\$77,620	

<b>Non-Federal Funds</b>				
State Funds		\$1,015,750		\$120,100
Other			\$376,576	

### 1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

#### 1.3B(1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

Nevada’s anticipated funding resources and the objectives of this plan are closely coordinated. Wherever possible, additional resources will be leveraged to maximize the dollars allocated to direct services. Nevada’s resources will be allocated to support this plan in one of three ways—direct funding of an objective, supporting an objective by operationalizing it, or completing an objective through the efforts of staff funded with Independent Living dollars and members of the SILC. Here is a list of the objectives that will be allocated resources under each approach:

#### Direct funding—Objectives 2.1, 2.7

##### Objective 2.1

Provide an appropriate, accessible, and affordable network of independent living rehabilitation services throughout Nevada, to at least 175 individuals annually

##### Objective 2.7

Expand the array of IL services offered to include the costs of transition from a nursing facility to community based-living

#### Operationalization—Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3,

##### Objective 1.1

Ensure that services are provided in accordance with an independent living plan mutually developed between the consumer, service provider staff and, if appropriate, with input from an independent expert

##### Objective 1.2

Ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, services for people with disabilities are provided in the most integrated setting

##### Objective 1.3

Ensure that services to underserved populations are provided at least in proportion to their population in the latest census data

Efforts of funded staff and members of the SILC—Objectives 1.4, 2.2, 2.3-2.6, 3.1-3.3, 4.1-4.3

Objective 1.4

Improve disaster preparedness for people with disabilities

Objective 2.2

Increase the funding available for IL services in the state, beyond that currently available through state and federal funding

Objective 2.3

Improve coordination of services to older individuals who are blind through a cooperative agreement between the DSU's Older-Blind Independent Living Program and the Independent Living Services Program

Objective 2.4

Increase access to Positive Behavioral Supports and similar services so that individuals with difficult behaviors will be better able to receive services in their local community

Objective 2.5

Expand the availability of community-based supports, especially Personal Assistance Services, for individuals with cognitive disabilities and Traumatic Brain Injury

Objective 2.6

Expand the availability of behavioral intervention services for children with Autism

Objective 3.1

Diversify the service and funding base of Nevada's Centers for Independent Living to lessen their dependence of federal Independent Living funding and to broaden the array of services and supports they offer.

Objective 3.2

Explore options to add fee for service operations to the menu of CIL services

Objective 3.3

Explore the feasibility of having Nevada's CILs assume management responsibility for Nevada Medicaid's physical disability waiver

Objective 4.1

Improve the transition of students from Early Intervention to school, and from school to work or college

Objective 4.2

Promote universal access to disability services

Objective 4.3

Establish one or more community-based training and support centers for individuals who are blind or visually impaired

**1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.**

Nevada has a state agency—the Office of Disability Services (ODS)—whose services focus on meeting the Independent Living needs of people with disabilities. ODS is the recipient of approximately \$1,015,750 in annual state funding for IL services and, as a result, the DSU has chosen to execute an interlocal contract with ODS to ensure optimal coordination of IL services and funds.

In turn, ODS has close working relationships with both of Nevada’s CILs, including a grant arrangement that provides approximately \$88,000 to the northern CIL to partially manage the IL services outlined in this plan. This grant is funded with a combination of federal and state sources; there is no state funding for basic CIL operations.

Further coordination is achieved through a cooperative agreement between ODS and the DSU’s Older-Blind IL program. As described elsewhere in this plan, this partnership enables the two agencies to help one-another, to the direct benefit of people receiving services.

**1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.**

There are no significant in-kind resources anticipated and none that will be claimed as match to Nevada’s federal grant.

**1.3B(4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.**

Not applicable.

**1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the CIL Work Plans – 34 CFR 364.42(c) and (e)**

**1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.**

The State of Nevada is dedicated to the philosophy of independent living, and continues to demonstrate this dedication by:

- Ensuring consumer control in the provision of services—every program applicant is the author of their IL plan through the cooperative assessment process utilized in Nevada.
- Providing peer support—all but one employee of Nevada’s IL services program has a disability. Additionally, our centers offer a variety of peer supports, and the IL services program provides a monthly peer support program targeted to those who are recently disabled.
- Encouraging a self-help attitude—service recipients are expected to play an active role in the IL service process, by directing the development of their IL plan, researching service options, contacting vendors, participating in assessments, and overseeing the quality of services received.
- Ensuring self-determination—in addition to the empowering approaches outlined above, people with disabilities are the architects of their future in Nevada through their participation in the Statewide Independent Living Council and their direct input in the drafting of this plan.
- Monitoring equal access—we know it is not enough to reach out to underserved populations, so we measure the percentages of underserved groups actually being served by our program and then annually outline a plan to increase those percentages at least to the level found in Nevada’s census data.
- Facilitating individual and systems advocacy—Nevada’s disability community has built a reputation of credibility and sensibility with state policymakers. Therefore, this plan is written to support their efforts, rather than to direct them. People with disabilities will continue to be on the front lines of change in Nevada; Independent Living staff and programs will supplement their work by providing resources, contacts and expertise.

**1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.**

Nevada’s CILs were directly involved in the drafting of this SPIL. The objectives outlined above under goal three were included at the specific recommendation of center staff.

**1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities – 34 CFR 364.26**

**Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined**

**to be appropriate by the SILC. The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.**

With the advice of the SILC, the DSU has chosen to work with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) primarily for purposes of coordination. Strategies for financial and resource coordination are outlined elsewhere in this plan, but the ODS partnership also yields excellent working relationships with key disability agencies, programs and councils. In addition to the SILC, ODS staffs seven other important advisory bodies, most of which include SILC representation:

State Rehabilitation Council—Mandated in federal statute, this body advises the State in the operation of vocational rehabilitation programs. The SRC includes two current and one former member of the SILC.

Personal Assistance Services Council—Created in Nevada statute, this body advises the State in the operation of the PAS programs operated by the Office of Disability Services, Medicaid, and Aging Services. The PAS Council includes two current and two former members of the SILC.

Interagency Transition Advisory Board—Created in Nevada statute, this body is charged with providing direction to the governor, legislature and state and county agencies in strengthening school-to-adult life transition services for students with disabilities. The ITAB includes two current and one former member of the SILC.

Assistive Technology Council—Mandated in federal law, this body advises the Office of Disability Services in the operation of its programs under the AT Act. The AT Council includes six current members of the SILC.

Traumatic Brain Injury Council—Created in Nevada statute, this body advises the State in the operation of the TBI rehabilitation program operated by the Office of Disability Services. The TBI Council does not include SILC representation.

Communications Access Council—Created in Nevada statute, this body advises the State in the operation of the Relay, equipment distribution and communication advocacy programs operated by the Office of Disability Services. The CAC includes three former members of the SILC.

Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities—Mandated in federal law, this body advises the Office of Disability Services in the operation of its programs under the DD Act. The DD Council includes two current and two former members of the SILC.

Strategic Plan Accountability Committee—Created by Executive Order, this monitors progress and advises the state in its work to comply with the Olmstead Decision. This is the most engaged and all-encompassing body on disabilities issues in Nevada. In addition to a broad range of disability representation, members also include representatives from every state agency providing significant disability services (education, mental health, Medicaid, Vocational rehab, early intervention, etc.). The SPAC includes two current and two former members of the SILC.

## **1.6 Coordination of Services – 34 CFR 364.27**

**Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.**

Nevada's IL services are designed to supplement, and not replace, supports available through other state and federal programs. As a program of last resort, the first step in the IL application process is a screening for eligibility in other programs, including Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, Medicaid waivers, mental health services, veteran's benefits, special education, Older-Blind IL, and others. Once potential eligibility for these other programs is determined, an IL plan is drafted and opportunities for coordinating benefits with these other resources are pursued. The IL case manager works with each client to access and apply for other services that are available. Program staff have developed working relationships with their counterparts in these other agencies and work together when they share a client. Typically, one program or another assumes responsibility for the needed services, but sometimes the IL program will jointly fund services if appropriate.

For example, special education may provide a needed service during the time a child spends in school, but not while the child is at home. The IL program will work with the family and the school to ensure that needed supports are available outside of school. Similarly, the state's physical disability Medicaid waiver limits the amount that can be spent on assistive technology. If the needed technology meets an Independent Living need, but exceeds the waiver allowance, the IL program will co-fund the needed device in partnership with Medicaid.

While there are excellent working relationships between the IL program and these many other agencies, no formal agreements exist. Nevada's Older-Blind program, however, has shown a particular strength and expertise in assessing the IL needs of people with visual disabilities and in providing mobility training. At the same time, the Independent Living program has demonstrated an ability to garner financial resources to fund the assistive technology needs of individuals with visual disabilities. Because this partnership makes so much sense for both programs, a cooperative agreement will be executed, whereby the two programs will cooperatively serve older-blind individuals whenever appropriate.

### **1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind – 34 CFR 364.28**

**Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind program and that the DSU determines to be effective.**

As described elsewhere in this plan, Nevada has recently implemented a successful partnership between the SILS program and Older Individuals who are Blind program. It is our intent to continue that approach throughout the term of this plan. Additionally, we intend to support community efforts to establish a community-based IL training and support center for blind

adults. We envision that such a center would be a great supplement to existing services and an excellent outreach tool to older-blind Nevadans.

**Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services**

**2.1 Scope and Extent – 34 CFR 364.42(b)(2)(3); 34 CFR 364.43(b); 34 CFR 364.59(b)**

**2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).**

<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided by the DSU (directly)</b>	<b>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</b>	<b>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)</b>
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
- Information and referral	X	X	X
- IL skills training	X	X	X
- Peer counseling		X	X
- Individual and systems advocacy		X	X
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 significant disabilities)		X	X
Rehabilitation technology	X	X	X
Mobility training	X	X	X
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	X	X	X
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services			
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	X	X	X



<b>Table 2.1A: Independent living services</b>	<b>Provided by the DSU (directly)</b>	<b>Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)</b>	<b>Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)</b>
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	X	X	X
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X	X	X
Supported living			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation			X
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment		X	
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices		X	X
Individual and group social and recreational services			X
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			X
Services for children with significant disabilities		X	X
Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities	X	X	X
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future			X
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	X		X
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	X	X	X

**2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the SPIL objectives identified in section 1.2.**

This plan gives priority and directly allocates resources to services including:

- The purchase of home and vehicle modifications, and assistive technology equipment, for people with severe disabilities who lack other funding resources
- Independent Living training and supports to adults and seniors with visual impairments
- Applied Behavioral Analysis interventions for children with Autism
- Transition assistance for individuals moving from a nursing facility to community living

This plan gives priority, but may not directly allocate resources, to services including:

- Positive Behavioral Supports for individuals displaying difficult behaviors
- The transition of children from early intervention to school, and from school to adult life
- Supports for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury, especially Personal Assistance Services

**2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of IL services, specify the types of IL services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:**

- **Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and**
- **Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.**

Nevada currently does, and will continue to, apply a sliding scale cost-sharing arrangement for individuals receiving Independent Living Services. The cost-sharing formula considers only the income of the applicant and anyone legally obligated to the applicant, and only considers the medical expenses of those whose income is counted and any additional people whom they are legally obligated to support. We have found this approach to be very equitable and anyone who finds himself in extenuating circumstances is given the opportunity to appeal their co-payment assessment.

The calculated co-payment is a one-time, flat dollar amount and is based on a person's ability to pay and not on the cost of the services they need. It is also indexed to inflation based upon the published federal poverty level. Currently, a single person making less than \$19,000 annually has no co-payment; a family of three making less than \$32,000 annually has no co-payment.

The information necessary to ascertain a person's co-payment is gathered in writing and maintained in their case file.

## **2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services – 34 CFR 364.43(d) and (e)**

### **2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.**

With the advice of the SILC, the DSU has executed an interlocal contract with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) for the delivery of IL services. ODS was formerly a bureau within the DSU and has managed Nevada's Independent Living program for many years. In 2003, ODS was moved by the legislature to a different department but has continued to receive and manage the State's IL funding. Thus, it has been a good fit for the DSU to continue working with ODS in the delivery of IL services.

### **2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.**

Not applicable

## **Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers**

### **3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25**

**Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.**

Nevada has two Centers for Independent Living (CILs). The Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living is based in the Reno/Sparks area and operates satellite offices in the rural communities of Fallon and Elko. The Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living is based in the Las Vegas area and operates a satellite office in the underserved area of North Las Vegas.

### **3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25**

**Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).**

There are several communities in Nevada that could benefit from the presence of a CIL. Henderson is now the state's second largest city and has no CIL. Henderson is in close proximity to Las Vegas but is far enough from the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living that travel is not convenient. Also, Henderson is in the same county as Las Vegas and it is not clear if federal law allows the funding of an additional CIL in the same county. If the legal issues are resolved favorably, Henderson is Nevada's first priority for new CIL funding.

Nevada's capital, Carson City, is a 40-minute drive from the nearest CIL and has a population over 60,000. Carson City is Nevada's second priority for new CIL funding.

Pahrump is a growing rapidly community of 37,000 and is over an hour drive from the nearest CIL in Las Vegas. Pahrump is Nevada's third priority for new CIL funding.

If CIL funding is made available on a competitive basis, the SILC is optimistic that grassroots organizations will step forward to bring these communities into the CIL network.

### **3.3 Section 723 States Only – 34 CFR 364.39**

**3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SILC chair have agreed upon.**

Not applicable.

**3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.**

Not applicable.

## **Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)**

### **4.1 Administrative Support Services – 34 CFR 364.4; 34 CFR 364.22(b)**

**4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program.**

Pursuant to the interlocal contract between the DSU and the Office of Disability Services, the DSU:

- Participates in the development of this SPIL
- Performs an annual review of the administration of the SILS program
- Draws federal funds and prepares related reports
- Prepares necessary work programs and performs other state level administrative activities
- Completes the annual SF 269(s) and quarterly PSC 272(s) federal reports

**4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.**

Pursuant to the interlocal contract between the DSU and the Office of Disability Services, the Office of Disability Services:

- Certifies annually that all expenditures associated with the State Independent Living Services program (CFDA 84-169) have been coded to an appropriate Job Number in

the state accounting system; that all expenditures are in compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and any regulations thereof and that the expenses were incurred during the federal grant funding period being charged; and that non-federal matching requirements have been met for any open grant for the preceding federal fiscal year.

- Seeks and obtains the necessary non-federal match from the Nevada State Legislature through the Executive Budget Office
- Prepares a state billing claim to justify a draw of federal funds
- Provides any additional information needed for federal or state reporting. This may include providing access to records for an annual review
- Prepares any required federal reports to the DSU for review and submittal
- Provides non-federal funds for any disallowed expenditure

**Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)**

**5.1 Resource plan – 34 CFR 364.21(i)**

**5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII, section 101(a)(18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this SPIL.**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Travel expenses for SILC meetings	9,370	9,840	10,240
Staff support for SILC functions (.40 FTE)	34,620	36,355	38,175
Operating Expenses (rent, utilities, etc)	5,700	5,980	6,250
Information Services	640	640	670
Interpreters/ accommodations for SILC meetings	1,680	1,740	1,830
Video conference facilities for SILC meetings	220	220	250
Worker’s compensation coverage for SILC members	120	120	140
Directors and Officers liability insurance*	1,650	1,730	1,820
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>	<b>\$56,625</b>	<b>\$59,375</b>

\* purchased in accordance with the cost principles of OMB Circular A-122 (22a)

The above budget represents expenditures made only to support the activities of the SILC, and not IL services; all funds are from Nevada’s federal part B grant. Three staff will be allocated from the Office of Disability Services to support the SILC—one supervisory, one professional and one clerical—for a total of .40 FTE. The operating expenses shown in the table above are allocations based upon the proposed staffing.

**5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed:**

- **The SILC’s responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.**

- **Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.**
- **Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.**

Nevada’s SILC works cooperatively with the DSU to develop its resource plan and to ensure that adequate funding is allocated for all planned SILC activities. The expenditure of those funds is then managed through the interlocal contract between the DSU and the Office of Disability Services. There are no conditions placed on SILC resources and, in fact, the SILC is empowered to seek additional resources if needed. Members of the Nevada SILC serve without compensation and, if the SILC takes any action related to an organization with which a member is affiliated, that member is required to abstain from voting. Nevada’s IL funds, from both federal and state sources, have been historically predictable. Thus, the state has a high level of confidence in the availability of funding for the SILC resource plan.

**5.2 Establishment and Placement – 34 CFR 364.21(a)**

**Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies.**

The Nevada SILC was established by state Executive Order and is an independent 501c3 corporation chartered in Nevada. It sets its own agenda and plans independent living activities in the state in cooperation with the DSU (Nevada Rehabilitation Division). The SILC is responsible for the joint development of the State Plan, as well as the review, monitoring, and evaluation of the implementation of the State Plan

**5.3 Appointment and Composition – 34 CFR 364.21(b) – (f)**

**Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b).**

In accordance with the bylaws of the Nevada SILC, the Governor of the State shall appoint members to the council after soliciting recommendations from representatives of organizations representing a broad range of individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in individuals with disabilities. In accordance with Article VI, subsection I of the Nevada SILC Bylaws, “no member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive full terms.”

The following table shows the current membership of the Nevada SILC and how it meets the requirements of the Act, including that a majority of all members and all voting members have disabilities, and that only a minority of members are employed by the State or a CIL:

Name	Person w/ a Disability, not CIL or State	Physical Mental Cognitive Sensory Multiple	Voting	DSU	CIL Director	CIL or State Employee	Native American VR	Other State Agency	North South Rural
Baker	X	Physical	X						Rural

Brown	X	Sensory	X						South
Cozad	X	Multiple	X						South
Lamoureaux	X	Physical	X						North
Martin	X	Physical	X						South
Mayes	X	Sensory	X						North
Piersanti	X	Cognitive	X						North
Rehkop		Physical	X						Rural
Coleman			Ex Officio	X		X			N/A
Feldman			X				X		Rural
Evilsizer			X		X	X			South
Erquiaga			X		X	X			North
McCabe			Ex Officio			X		X	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11*</b>						

\*13 total members

**5.4 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.21(j)**

**Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met:**

- **SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.**
- **Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office, which would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.**

Through the SILC chairman, the SILC offers feedback in the periodic performance evaluations of SILC staff. Members of the SILC are encouraged to voice their support and concerns to the appropriate supervisors of SILC staff. While SILC staff does not spend all their time working on SILC issues, they are focused on work related to independent living. Thus, the interests of the SILC and its staff are coordinated to mutual benefit. It is also worth noting that SILC staff are not placed in the DSU, but are actually contracted through a separate agency.

**Section 6: Service Provider Requirements**

**Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:**

**6.1 Staffing – 34 CFR 364.23; 34 CFR 364.24; 34 CFR 364.31**

- **Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.**

All but one of Nevada’s SILS staff has a disability and are personally experienced in issues of independent living. Collectively, they have decades of experience in IL services and college degrees in rehabilitation, public management and adaptive recreation. The majority of staff at Nevada’s CIL’s also have disabilities and substantial experience in IL issues and

services. Nevada is dedicated to the provision of IL services to people with disabilities, by people with disabilities.

- **Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.**

The Office of Disability Services, which manages the operations of the SILS program has a certified American Sign Language interpreter on staff who is available to interpret for IL clients and for the SILC. Additionally, the agency has access to other bilingual resources whenever they are needed and is equipped to provide communication in any needed alternative format. All of these resources are made available to the CILs when they are unavailable in-house.

- **Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.**

The periodic performance evaluations for all SILC staff include a professional development section that outlines and plans for needed training. All staff are continually offered a wide variety of training in leadership and administration, and are encouraged to take part in the IL training offered through national organizations like NCIL and ILRU.

- **Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.**

Nevada's IL agencies have demonstrated their commitment to disabilities affirmative action through years of hiring and promoting people with disabilities. These practices will continue as future positions are created or become vacant.

## **6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting – 34 CFR 364.34**

- **Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.**

Nevada's CILs undergo comprehensive, independent audits each year that examine the internal controls and accounting systems of the centers. In accordance with the requirements of OMB circular A-133, those audits include reviews relevant to the centers' receipt and disbursement of federal funds.



The DSU and its partner agency, the Office of Disability Services, are subject to the State of Nevada's multi-level internal control systems and to internal audits conducted by both the executive and legislative branches. In 2006 an audit was conducted that included the IL services program, and no material weaknesses were reported in the fiscal or programmatic systems.

### **6.3 Record-Keeping, Access and Reporting – 34 CFR 364.35; 34 CFR 364.36; 34 CFR 364.37**

- **Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.**

Nevada's part B and part C programs have records retention systems in place that securely maintain the fiscal and service records required under 34 CFR 364. Furthermore, these records are easily accessible and always available for review by those with jurisdiction over the programs.

- **Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate**

In its Interlocal Contract with the DSU, the Office of Disability Services is required to draft all necessary reports for DSU and SILC input and review, and to submit those reports to the appropriate authority.

- **Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.**

The DSU and CILs assure that the Commissioner and Comptroller General will have full access to all records of the part B and part C programs, as required under 34 CFR 364.

### **6.4 Eligibility – 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41**

- **Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.**

Eligibility for IL services in Nevada is determined in accordance with the definitions outlined in 34 CFR 364.4.

- **Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.**

Information and referral are integrated into the IL service process in Nevada and information about IL services is freely available to anyone seeking such information. The

CILs and the SILS program have websites, and information on all IL services is available through Nevada 211.

- **Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.**

An applicant's eligibility or ineligibility is determined in accordance with 34 CFR 364.51 and all necessary disclosures are provided in regular correspondence with program clients.

- **Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.**

Nevada does not discriminate in IL services on the basis of any of these demographics.

- **Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.**

Nevada does not impose a residence requirement for IL services but does require that an applicant be present in the state.

#### **6.5 Independent Living Plans – 34 CFR 364.43(c)**

- **Provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.**

Every applicant for IL services in Nevada directs the development of their IL plan of services with the assistance of program staff and is free to request a waiver of their plan.

#### **6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information – 34 CFR 364.30**

- **Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.**

Comprehensive information about the Client Assistance Program is provided to each applicant, at the very least, in correspondence related to their: eligibility determination, plan approval, and case closure. Alternative formats are provided at the applicant's request.

#### **6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information – 34 CFR 364.56(a)**

- **Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of**

**34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.**

In compliance with the mandates of 34 CFR 364.56(a), all client information is protected through tools such as: controlled access, password protection, encrypted data, and locked cabinets.

**Section 7: Evaluation**

**Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program. 34 CFR 364.38**

In October and November of each year, Nevada will undertake a comprehensive evaluation of progress in implementing the SPIL. This process begins with the gathering of data and reports related to the various benchmarks outlined in the objectives of the SPIL. That information is then compiled by the Office of Disability Services into a first draft of the 704 report, and provided to staff of the DSU for an informal round of feedback. After editing the report as appropriate, the next phase of the process includes a review of the second draft by all members of the SILC, and the incorporation of their input into the 704 report. The third phase includes a detailed review by the administrator of the DSU and the chairman of the SILC, after which the report is signed and submitted. The effectiveness of Nevada's SPIL will be determined by the effectiveness of the programs and initiatives outlined in the SPIL. Furthermore, where direct services are provided, the effectiveness of the programs will be determined by the impacts and satisfaction reported by the individuals who are served.

It is our belief that direct feedback from consumers is the best way to measure outcomes and to plan for program improvements. The SILC and DSU have designed a comprehensive program monitoring process and an effective format for interviewing program clients, including those with significant disabilities as required by 34 CFR 364.38. Interviews include a visual inspection of the device or service provided, documentation of the subjective life impacts resulting from the assistance provided, and objective pre and post-service questions designed to quantify the degree of impact.

This process is implemented by an independent party who is not a member of the SILC and who does not work for the DSU. In addition to the typical review of program outcomes, in-person, at home interviews are conducted with most clients served by the program, and those interviewed are chosen at random to ensure a representative sample. This personal approach has proven very effective in eliciting honest and insightful feedback from those served.

An additional benefit to these interviews has been the ability to discuss related issues with IL clients. We have discussed their need for other services, what steps they can take to get involved in systems advocacy, and what their personal "stories" are-- beyond their status as a person with a disability. This personal information has been particularly helpful in providing more than just statistics to legislators and policy makers.

The programmatic aspects of the monitor are conducted by an employee of the Office of Disability Services who reports to the SILC. This part of the monitor is approached as a cooperative effort between the Office of Disability Services, the SILC, and the grantee. This cooperative approach has resulted in a two-way assessment of the program and substantive strategies for program improvement. An objective component of the grant monitor includes an analysis of the quality, quantity and timeliness of client services.

Nevada's SPIL also includes non-programmatic initiatives, like implementing the state's Olmstead Plan and promoting universal access to disability services. These initiatives have specific and measurable objectives that will plainly reveal if an undertaking was successful. For example, objective 4.2 says, "By 9/30/09 Nevada's 211 system will be available on a statewide basis." We will be able to objectively measure and report whether or not this objective was achieved.

Nevada employs both summative and formative evaluation processes in analyzing the outcomes of its work. For example, we are able to gather objective data on the quality of our programs, and the partners with whom we work, through numerical ratings gathered during our interview processes. Programmatic assessments are typically completed during the third calendar quarter each year, because the State operates on a June 30 fiscal year end. Our systems change efforts require more formative feedback to keep our efforts on course and to identify future opportunities and challenges. Much of this formative feedback comes from the SILC and from other advisory bodies like the Olmstead Plan accountability committee. These evaluation processes occur over several months, typically in the second half of the calendar year, as various bodies compile their reports, as the SILC meets, and as the 704 report is drafted. Thus, our evaluation processes are driven by the objectives outlined in this SPIL, and the results of the evaluations feed directly into the annual 704 report compiled by the SILC and DSU.

## **Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements**

**Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL. 34 CFR 364.20(h)**

Not applicable.