

Amendments to the 2008–10 State Plan for Independent Living

Note: Amendment language is underlined

The NC Statewide Independent Living Council (NCSILC), NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS), and the NC Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) are seeking public input to amend the current three-year State Plan for Independent Living. The 2008–2010 North Carolina State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) went into effect on October 1, 2008 and will end on September 30, 2010.

The Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) issued North Carolina a monitoring plan in September 2008. The monitoring plan requires North Carolina to amend the 2008 – 2010 SPIL to include the funds and services provided by the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program under the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the Division of Services for the Blind.

The federal statute, 34 CFR 364.42(b) (1) requires that SPIL objectives address “the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services.” The goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services” is addressed through the ILRP/ILR vision and mission statements as shown below in section 1.1. “

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.

Joint Mission:

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

- (a) Promote a philosophy of independent living (IL), including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society by providing financial assistance to States;
- (b) Provide financial assistance for providing, expanding, or improving the provision of IL services;
- (c) Provide assistance to expand and support the Statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit

agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services; and

- (d) Advocate for improving working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.

DVRS/IL Mission Statement: To promote employment and independence for people with disabilities through customer partnership and community leadership.

DVRS/IL Vision Statement: North Carolinians with disabilities will live and work in the communities of their choice with economic and other supports available to help them achieve and maintain optimal self-sufficiency and independence.

Goals of the DVRS & DSB Programs:

Provision of direct independent living services and supports.

Description: The NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services and the NC Division of Services for the Blind will provide direct independent living services.

Objectives and timelines:

1. DVRS will provide specialized and individualized services and supports for individuals with a significant disability. Services to be provided include but are not limited to: counseling and guidance, home modifications, vehicle modifications, personal attendant services, and the provision of durable medical equipment.

Timeline: During all three years (10/01/07-9/30/10), the goal is to provide services to over 2,000 eligible individuals. Goal targets fluctuate but for FY 2009 the goal is to develop individualized plans with 2,257 eligible clients. State funds will be used to provide these services.

2. DSB will provide specialized and individualized services and supports for individuals less than 55 years of age who have significant visual impairments. Services to be provided include but are not limited to: adjustment to vision loss counseling, information and referral, independent living skills training (mobility, communications, personal and home management, etc.) and individual advocacy.

Timeline: During all three years (10/01/07 - 9/30/10), the goal of the NC Division of Services for the Blind Independent Living Services Program is to provide services for over 400 eligible individuals.

State and other federal funds will be used to provide these services: \$200,000 annually.

The mission of the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind is to enable individuals who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their goals of independence and employment. DSB is the DSU responsible for the administration of vision rehabilitation services to visually impaired residents of North Carolina.

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;

This SPIL has designated as the targeted population for outreach efforts North Carolinians with disabilities that live in areas that are unserved and underserved including individuals with disabilities from diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds and from rural areas.

DVR/IL Service and population priorities:

The IL Rehabilitation program assists eligible individuals with a significant disability and has a priority of serving those who are:

1. currently living in an institution but are able, with appropriate supports, to live independently in the community
2. Living in the community but are at risk of being institutionalized.
- 3 Integrated in the community but need continued support
4. Employed and need services to maintain employment

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

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services to be provided by DSUs	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	165,000		260,000	
Chapter 1, Part C			1,766,489	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other				
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		<u>17,143,588(DVR)</u> <u>200,000(DSB)</u>		
Other				
Totals	165,000	17,343,588	2,026,489	

Year 2

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services to be provided by DSUs	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	150,000		60,000	277,124
Chapter 1, Part C			1,766,489	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other				
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		<u>17,143,588(DVR)</u> <u>200,000(DSB)</u>		
Other				
Totals	150,000	17,343,588	1,826,489	277,124

Year 3

Sources	Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses			
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services to be provided by DSUs	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds				
Chapter 1, Part B	150,000		60,000	277,124
Chapter 1, Part C			1,766,489	
Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				
Other Federal Funds				
Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other				
Non-Federal Funds				
State Funds		<u>17,143,588(DVR)</u> <u>200,000(DSB)</u>		
Other				
Totals	150,000	17,343,588	1,826,489	277,124

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.

Part B funds will support all the SPIL objectives: expand the network of Centers for Independent Living in the state’s Eastern region; ensure non-profit status of the NCSILC; increase participation and leadership by youth with disabilities; transition consumers from institutionalized settings to the community; monitor State legislation on issues that affect people with disabilities in North Carolina.

In addition, Part C funds will support Objectives 1, 3, 4 and 5, expand the network of CILs, increase participation of youth with disabilities, transition consumers from institutionalized settings into the community, and monitor state legislation on issues affecting people with disabilities through the existing Centers.

North Carolina's network of Centers for Independent Living only covers 34 of North Carolina's 100 counties. North Carolina does not provide State funds for Centers for Independent Living. CILs utilize Federal Part B and Part C funds for their operations. The SPIL will address the lack of Centers for Independent Living in the Eastern Counties of the State.

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.

The DSUs, NCSILC members and all of the CILs will continue to allocate in-kind staff time, technical assistance and planning/implementation of the goals and activities of the SPIL.

DVR/IL receives funding through State Appropriations to provide IL services. DSB utilizes \$200,000 state funding to provide direct services for eligible individuals who are less than 55 years old. DSB's Part B funds are administered by DVRS.

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).

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:			
- Information and referral	X	<u>X</u>	X
- IL skills training	X(DSB)	<u>X</u>	X
- Peer counseling	X(DSB)	<u>X</u>	X
- Individual and systems advocacy	X	<u>X</u>	X

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	X		X
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
Mobility training	X		X
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	X		X
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	X		X
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	X		X
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
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	X		X
Supported living			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X		X
Physical rehabilitation	X		
Therapeutic treatment	X		
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	X		
Individual and group social and recreational services	X		X

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
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
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	X		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

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

NCSILC has established a priority for the provision of four IL Core Services to unserved and underserved populations in the Eastern region of North Carolina. Goal One, Objective One of the SPIL reflects the commitment for such established priority.

Types of DVR/IL Services:

Counseling and guidance

Information and Referral

Purchase of Adaptive Equipment

Provision of Personal Assistant Services

Home and vehicle modifications

DSB will provide specialized and individualized services and supports for individuals, less than 55 years of age, who have significant visual impairments.

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.

N/A

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

Scope of DVR/IL Services:

The purpose of the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program (IL) is to promote the integration and inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities in the community. The IL program has a priority focus on those individuals with severe disabilities who can manage or learn to manage on their own in the community with services from the program. The IL Program assists eligible individuals with severe disabilities to obtain services that lead to deinstitutionalization, the prevention of institutionalization, achieving community living, and/or employment transition to Vocational Rehabilitation Services program. The program does not establish or operate permanent living facilities or manage supervised living arrangements, but does strive to facilitate the independence of many who might otherwise be placed in such settings and, perhaps, have less opportunity to realize their fullest potential. The IL program works collaboratively with community resources with emphasis given to coordination and use of those resources to conserve state funds. The provision of services is dependent and contingent upon and subject to the appropriation, allocation, and availability of funds to the IL rehabilitation program.

Scope of DSB Services:

DSB promotes a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy. The purpose of the program is to provide services and supports to help maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence and productivity of individuals with visual impairments and to promote their integration and full inclusion into the mainstream of American Society. The DSB ILR Program is statewide, serving all 100 counties in North Carolina. Independent Living Rehabilitation Counselors (ILRCs) are the case managers for individuals receiving services in this program. The 16 ILRCs work out of 7 district offices. The specialized and individualized services of the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program can be provided in-home and in small community-based classes called Mini Centers. The comprehensive direct services provided by DSB include the core IL services and:

- Orientation and mobility training

- Low vision services
- Deaf blind services
- Assistive technology (assessment, devices, and training)
- Supportive services
- Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities
- IL skills training and programs specifically for youths who have visual impairments

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.

N/A