

Amended State Plan for Independent Living seeks public comment

RALEIGH – The State Plan for Independent Living, which specifies the activities, supports and services provided in North Carolina to promote the philosophy of independent living for people with disabilities, will be open for public input on May 19, 2010.

The Statewide Independent Living Council and the N.C. Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) and Services for the Blind (DSB) are seeking to amend the current three-year plan, which went into effect Oct. 1, 2008, and concludes on Sept. 30 of this year.

The public is invited to drop in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 19, 2010 at the office of DVRS, 805 Ruggles Drive, on the campus of Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh to provide comments on the amended 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL).

A copy of the amended 2008–2010 SPIL is available at <http://dvr.dhhs.state.nc.us/>. To request a copy of the amended 2008– 010 SPIL in regular print or an alternative format, contact Gay Joyner at (919) 855-3524 or TTY (919) 733-0181.

Written comments may be sent until May 19 to: Gay Joyner, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, 2801 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2801 or by e-mail to gay.joyner@dhhs.nc.gov .

The Rehabilitation Services Administration issued North Carolina a monitoring plan in September 2008. That plan requires North Carolina to amend the 2008 – 2010 SPIL to include the funds and services provided by the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program under DVRS and DSB.

DVRS provides 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.

DSB provides specialized and individualized services and supports for individuals younger 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 and individual advocacy.

Amending the SPIL to include this information will ensure that North Carolina is in compliance with the federal requirements as specified in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended.