



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Mark Schultz, Angela Fujan

SUBJECT: FY2014-16 State Plan for Independent Living

Proposed Board Action:

Approve the FY 2014-16 State Plan for Independent Living

Background Information:

The SPIL directs the activities of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) as they promote the philosophy of independent living as required by Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

A new SPIL is required every three years in order for VR and the NCBVI to receive federal funds to support independent living services beginning October 1, 2013.

The FY 2014-2016 SPIL must be submitted to Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) by VR and NCBVI (designated state units) by July 1, 2013. The last 3-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) was approved by the State Board of Education in May, 2010.

Estimated Cost:

N/A

Supporting Documentation Included:

FY 2014-16 State Plan for Independent Living

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Mark Schultz, 402.471.1201, mark.schultz@nebraska.gov or Angela Fujan, 402-679-6298, angela.fujan@nebraska.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council (NESILC) will hold a public meeting to solicit comments and recommendations for the 2013-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The public meeting will take place on Monday, April 15, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 PM to 3:00 P.M. Central Standard Time. The public meeting will be conducted at the Lincoln Building, Fifth Floor Conference Room, 215 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.

This meeting is being conducted in accordance with 34 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Ch. III, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Education; Part 364 Subpart C. Prior to submission of the SPIL to the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) for approval it is required that a draft of the 2013-2016 SPIL be available for public review and comment. The 2013-2016 SPIL can be viewed at www.nesilc.org or a paper copy can be requested by contacting the NESILC office at 402.438.7979 or email Luke@nesilc.org.

If materials need to be in alternate formats at the meeting request these accommodations by April 5, 2013 at the NESILC office.

State: NEBRASKA

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

**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 2014-2016

Effective Date: October 1, 2013

OMB NUMBER: 1820-0527

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PART I: Assurances

State of: NE

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 Vocational Rehabilitation (insert name of DSU). *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 NE Commission for Blind and Visually Impaired (insert name of separate State agency). Indicate N/A if not applicable. *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 NE Statewide Independent Living Council (insert name of SILC). *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 Mark Schultz, Director of Voc. Rehab. (Name, title of DSU director) and Dr. Pearl Van Zandt, Director of NE Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired (Name, title of separate State agency director, if applicable). *34 CFR 76.104(a)(5) and (6)*

Section 2: SPIL Development

- 1.1 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)*
- 1.2 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)*
- 1.3 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)*
- 1.4 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)*
- 1.5 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*
- 1.6 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)*

1.2 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)*

1.3 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*

1.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. *34 CFR 365.31(c)*

Section 4: Eligibility

1.1 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)*

1.2 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)*

1.3 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

1.1 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)*

1.2 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)*

1.3 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*

1.4 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

1.1 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

1.1 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)*

1.2 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*

1.3 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

1.1 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 Nebraska is in compliance and will remain in compliance with the aforementioned assurances during FY 14-FY16 (specify the three-year period covered by this SPIL).

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2013 (year)

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

DATE

Bradley A. Meurrens
NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

SIGNATURE OF DSU DIRECTOR

DATE

Mark Schultz, Director of Vocational Rehabilitation
NAME AND TITLE OF DSU DIRECTOR

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

DATE

Dr. Peal Van Zandt, Director NCBVI
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.

The *mission* of the IL programs and services in Nebraska is to promote independent lives of inclusion in the community for people with disabilities.

The Goal for the IL programs and services in Nebraska:

Nebraskans with disabilities have opportunities to receive IL services

People with disabilities in Nebraska will receive the following from the IL programs and services:

- Information and referral on Independent Living
- Independent Living skills training
- Self and systems advocacy
- Peer Mentoring
- Information on the philosophy of consumer control and self determination
- Expanded IL service delivery in unserved and underserved areas of the state

Direct services utilizing Part B dollars:

1. Assistive Technology Partnership – Services are to provide a statewide approach to serving unserved and underserved areas of the State within focused services (e.g. home modifications and assistive technology).
2. Services from the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) -- NCBVI provides direct statewide services promoting greater Independent Living for individuals that are blind or visually impaired.
3. Panhandle Independent Living Services (PILS) – Part B dollars are utilized to operate a Center for Independent Living that provides the Core Services identified in the Rehab Act in an area unserved by any Part C funded Center for Independent Living.
4. Part B Funds are also utilized to support NESILC to carry out the mandate stated in Section 705 of The Rehab Act

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.

GOAL1: People with disabilities in Nebraska including but not limited to people with mental illness and acquired brain injuries have access to supports and services necessary for individuals to have the choice to achieve and maintain Independent Living; these include but are not limited to health care, employment, transportation

1. People with disabilities will have access to supports and services necessary for health care, employment, transportation

- Attend the meetings hosted by Senators that NESILC is invited to regarding the development and implementation of Affordable Care Act and disseminate information obtained to IL Partners, Behavioral Health Providers and other Disability Organizations to raise awareness regarding the needs of people with disabilities to live independently-life of SPIL
- Attend the public hearings and other meetings to educate Senators, the NE Dept. of Insurance and others on the need to design the State Insurance Exchange in a manner that accommodates individuals with disabilities and their families-life of SPIL
- Collaborate with other not-for-profits such as Nebraska Appleseed, Disability Rights Nebraska, the Centers for Independent Living and AARP to educate the public and legislators about the need for healthcare expansion while raising awareness of the needs of people with disabilities to live independently-life of SPIL
- Collaborate with other interested organizations on redesign and reform of ACCESSNebraska and other Nebraska health and human services systems=life of SPIL
- Collaborate with other interested organizations on the implementation of the state Healthcare Exchange and disseminate Healthcare Exchange information-life of SPIL
- Collaborate with other interested organizations on the Medicaid reform process to provide an Independent Living perspective and disseminate information about Medicaid reform-life of SPIL
- Monitor the state budget and the legislative process to ensure systems that are essential to Independent Living and disseminate information obtained to IL Partners, Centers for Independent Living, and other stakeholder-life of SPIL

Measurable Indicator: Based on data collected for 704 Report at least 50 people with disabilities will receive supports to live independently.

2. In order to maintain Independent Living, employment must be an option-life of SPIL

- Collaborate with State Rehabilitation Council, the NCBVI Commission Board and IL Partners to promote their activities that recognize and support employment options for people with disabilities. This could include but not limited to hosting a webinar in conjunction with the Designated State Units to educate consumers and interested parties about the Nebraska Medicaid Insurance for Workers with Disabilities program-life of SPIL
- Develop fact sheets in conjunction with Centers for Independent Living and other interested organizations about employment expectations, accommodations and protections under ADA, and other information about employment and people with disabilities which will be posted on Nebraska SILC's website-life of SPIL

Measurable Indicator: At least 10 people with disabilities will be referred to VR/NCBVI by

the CILs.

GOAL 2: People in Nebraska have access to full information on Independent Living services available in Nebraska for people with disabilities, including but not limited to people with mental illness and/or acquired brain injury.

1. Provide resource materials to the citizens of Nebraska so they become educated about Independent Living-life of SPIL
 - A network, including, but not limited to, the State Rehabilitation Council, the NCBVI commission board, Disability Rights Nebraska, the Independent Living Partners, and other organizations will be identified and invited to participate in a planning group to develop materials to educate people about Independent Living philosophy, practice, and supports.
 - Explore marketing options for informational materials regarding the role of the NESILC and to promote Independent Living Philosophy.
 - Attend annual Brain Injury Association and Mental Health Conferences to distribute materials from IL Partners and to present about Independent Living.
 - Monitor the state budget and the legislative process to ensure systems that are essential to Independent Living and disseminate information obtained to IL Partners, Centers for Independent Living, and other stakeholders.
 - NE SILC will identify and research emerging issues in Nebraska pertinent to Independent Living.
 - Send represents from NESILC to the annual conferences for NCIL, APRIL, SILC Congress, state mental health, and acquired brain injuries conferences and disseminate information to members and stakeholders.

Measurable Indicators: 1500 pieces of information about IL Partners will be disseminated.

GOAL 3: To improve the capacity and build sustainability for the existing three (3) Centers for Independent Living plus two (2) satellite offices and NESILC.

1. Centers for Independent Living will have the necessary resources to provide staff training and to provide the mandated services as well as new and developing disability needs-life of SPIL
 - Develop a process in conjunction with the CILs and DSUs so that CILs can file applications for funding to participate in their training activities identified in each center's 704 Report.
 - Work with CILs to identify resource needs and activities necessary to maintain independent funding and sustaining resources
 - Work with and provide technical assistance to CILs to aid in the development of strategic plans to maintain financial and resource sustainability through information sharing.
 - Work with IL Partners and CILs to maximize the utilization of technology to improve communication and participation in NESILC meetings by members or guests as well as identify new technologies that would increase the effectiveness and the ability of NESILC staff to accomplish their duties.
 - Arrange semi-annual meetings between NESILC and IL Partners to maintain communication and address any concerns

Measurable Indicators: At least 2 CILs will utilize funds set aside to meet training needs identified in 704 Report.

Goal 4 Capacity Building for Youth Leadership for youth with disabilities in Nebraska

1. Increase involvement of youth with disabilities in Independent Living movement-life of SPIL

- Work with the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council to raise awareness of Independent Living philosophy and the NESILC with youth with disabilities between ages 16-25.
- Work with the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council to identify youths with disabilities who would be interested in becoming members of the NESILC.
- Work with the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council to identify and support youths with disabilities who would be interested in attending an independent living conference or other independent living training.
- Identify other entities and collaborate with them to increase the involvement of youth(s) with disabilities in activities related to Independent Living
- Work with the Nebraska Youth Leadership Council to identify and support youth(s) with disabilities to attend the Unicameral Youth Legislature

Measurable Indicator: 1 member of NYLC will join NESILC.

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.

Due to the very rural nature of the State of Nebraska and because we are a minimum funded state outreach efforts will be statewide as the western 2/3 of our state continue to be unserved or underserved. This is improving in some areas, but with continued effort it can improve statewide.

Currently the North Central, South East, and South West Nebraska are unserved or underserved by Part C CILs. There are 6 Counties in the North Central region that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL – Cherry, Brown, Rock, Holt, Boyd and Keya Paha. There are 5 Counties in the South East Nebraska that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL – Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson. Southwest Nebraska is served by a Center that does not receive any Part C funds only funded by Part B Funds. These counties are Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux.

Currently consumers in these unserved and underserved areas are provided IL services in the following ways:

The League of Human Dignity provides Medicaid Waiver Assessments for individuals statewide. They have opened offices throughout the state to aid in this process.

The Assistive Technology Partnership completes barrier removal assessments for individuals in these Counties who are consumers of Vocational Rehabilitation and for individuals in need of Part B Independent Living services.

If an individual’s needs, to include core services exceed those offered by the League of Human Dignity or the Assistive Technology Partnership the individual is referred to one of the Centers for Independent Living Services.

The Independence Rising (formerly the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska) has established itinerant office locations in Western Nebraska which has ensured continued access to services in underserved parts of the State. This means staff meets with consumer at whatever location is convenient.

The SILC continues to look for qualified members to round out our membership. The application is posted on our website in both WORD and pdf documents. The website is routinely updated to share information.

SILC is scheduled to have displays at various State conferences to include the Annual Brain Injury Conference. The display includes brochures from the member organizations that make up the IL Partners.

When excess Part C funds have been distribute to bring all Part C CILs to a minimum funding level of \$250,000.00 and any additional Part B funds have been used to increase funding for Part B CIL to \$250,000.00, the IL Partners will determine if there continues to be a need for a new Part C Center.

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 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
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Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$76,586.00	\$152,100.00-ATP	\$80,275.00-PILS	\$4000.00-Training \$1400.00-Youth
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C			\$680,339.00-LHD ARRA \$144,853.00 \$142,000-IR	
Title VII Funds - 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)			\$3,000.00-TPS under MFP-IR	
Other Federal Funds - Other				
Non-Federal Funds -State Funds			\$6,000.00-IR \$14,725.00-PILS	
Non-Federal Funds - Other			\$3,000.00-IR \$186,970.00-LHD \$5,000.00-PILS	

Year 2 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$76,685.00	\$152,000.00-ATP	\$80,275.00-PILS	\$4,000.00-training \$1,400.00-youth
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C			\$680,339.00-LHD ARRA \$144,853- LHD \$135,000.00-IR	

Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds - 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 Federal Funds - Other				
Non-Federal Funds -State Funds			\$15,000.00-IR \$14,725.00-PILS	
Non-Federal Funds - Other			\$20,000.00-IR \$186,970.00-LHD \$5,000.00-PILS	

Year 3 - Approximate Funding Amounts and Uses

Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part B	\$76,885.00	\$151,800.00-ATP	\$80,275.00-PILS	\$4,000.00-training \$1,400.00-youth
Title VII Funds - Chapter 1, Part C			680,339.00-LHD \$135,000.00-IR	
Title VII Funds - Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)				

Sources	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities
Other Federal Funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)				
Other Federal Funds - Other				
Non-Federal Funds -State Funds			\$14,725.00-PILS	
Non-Federal Funds - Other			\$5,000.00-PILS	

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.

The Nebraska IL Partners have continued to meet at regular intervals to examine methods of outreach, methods for identifying service gaps or service expansion needs.

Through joint meetings between SILC and DSUs it was determined that all Part B Funds will be used for Independent Living. This includes funding for CIL in rural Nebraska, administration and operation of SILC, funding of Other SPIL activities and funding for IL Services administered through Assistive Technology Partnership.

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.

For PILS the funding is Part B plus state match. For IR monies are Part C but funds are augmented with state funds that are provided for additional services beyond core 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.

Not applicable

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

N/A

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 objectives in the Nebraska SPIL for years 2014 through 2017 are consistent with and further the purpose of Chapter 1 - Title VII of the Act, as stated in section 701 and 34 CFR 364.2 in the following ways:

- Maximize existing resources and identify opportunities for expansion of services resulting in a comprehensive statewide independent living service delivery system. This ensures individuals with the most significant disabilities, regardless of minority status or geographic location have equal access to necessary services.
- Eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort by State Independent Living Service partners. This maximizes existing resources which will ensure not only sustaining the existing services but to expand upon them.
- Identify areas where through collaboration and taking advantage of each other's limited resources enables the State Independent Living Service partners to achieve common goals.
- Better ensure a more comprehensive assessment of consumer issues, concerns, and service needs occur than could be accomplished by any one partner alone.

The SPIL furthers the provision of information by collaboration among the IL network on training, the accuracy of information, and determining ways to address the need for services in unserved and underserved areas of the state

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.

Consideration of CIL priorities under section 725(c)(4) of the Act was ensured by the process established for the development of the SPIL. All CILs were invited to participate in quarterly meetings, one Part C CIL and the Part B CIL participated. with SILC development and review of the initial drafts, the IL Network was responsible for the Outreach focus that evolved. The plan is based solidly on that input. CILs assisted with and participated in the public meetings on the SPIL.

The IL Network meets at least once a year, and maintains regular communication via telephone & internet

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.

The steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC and Centers are:

Facilitate the expansion of the IL Network by including all IL Partners in all communication regarding IL in Nebraska. Disseminating information about IL to disability organizations and all stakeholder in the state.

Meet with representatives of the IL Network at twice per year

Include CIL representatives on SILC committees

Consult with IL Network on potential joint position statements on IL issues in Nebraska

Routine sharing of information with the IL Network, including the SRC

The CILs and DSUs will collaborate and coordinate to avoid any duplication of services while promoting consumer choice

SILC will maintain a representative to the SRC and collaborate on activities as appropriate

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.

The steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the DSUs, other state agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities include continuation of:

Representation of the DSUs on the SILC.

Representation of the SILC on the State Rehabilitation Council.

Representation of the SILC Executive Director and/or a SILC Board member on Nebraska Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities (NCCD) with other statewide disability organizations, including the Brain Injury Association, Mental Health Association, NAMI NE, to promote community living.

Representation of the SILC on the Medicaid Reform Coalition with Appleseed, People in Need, NCCD, and Disability Rights Nebraska to monitor Medicaid changes to ensure community living.

Continue to monitor Access Nebraska and Health Care Reform plus any other project developed in Nebraska to ensure IL remains a viable option

Monitoring transition Programs introduced by organizations outside school districts, such Arc of Nebraska

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.

The method of implementation of the Title VII Chapter 2 program employed by the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) involves the provision of direct services delivered by counselors working for NCBVI. Title VII Chapter 2 funds are not used to sub-contract services provided by other vendors in the delivery of services to consumers. Counselors in each of the six field offices operated by NCBVI contact agencies and organizations in accordance with minority outreach plans designed to generate referrals representative of unserved and underserved populations.

During FY 2012, NCBVI provided active Independent Living services to 452 older individuals who are blind. Determination of eligibility for services is determined on the basis of a visual impairment limiting the individual's ability to perform the activities of daily living and the availability of services offered by NCBVI to reduce or eliminate limitations due to blindness without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, or disabling condition. Services include training in orientation and mobility skills using a white cane; development of more

effective communication skills (i.e., braille, handwriting, computer keyboarding, or use of aids including large print, cassette tape recorders, radio reading and library services, telephone access to newspapers, readers); training in the alternative skills of blindness promoting effective daily living skills (i.e., meal preparation, identifying coins and currency, selection of clothing, telling time, maintaining a household); use of assistive technology and low vision services and aids to perform activities of daily living; family and peer counseling services; and promotion of self-advocacy leading to greater participation in community activities and access to available resources.

Many individuals with vision loss are referred to NCBVI from a variety of sources. A counselor contacts each referral, explains the availability of NCBVI services, as well as those offered by other agencies, organizations, and programs (i.e., Talking Book and Braille Services, radio reading services, NFB Newsline, low vision evaluations, subsidized transportation programs, telephone directory assistance waivers). New referrals are often given handwriting guides, needle threaders, large print products, or other low cost items. NCBVI counselors may mark appliances and thermostats and teach the individual how to use the markings. If new referrals 55 years of age or older apply for independent living services rather than vocational rehabilitation services, they are moved into an active status. Those who choose not to pursue active independent living services are closed from evaluative services.

Those individuals who are accepted for active independent living services may be referred to a low vision clinic for low vision devices which will enable them to use their remaining vision more effectively. Many work with a counselor to learn the alternative skills of blindness, enabling them to be more independent in the home. This training is typically provided in the home, but some also participate in group teaching sessions which give participants the opportunity to use the skills they have learned in a setting away from home and to interact with others learning the alternative skills of blindness. Those who desire even more advanced training are referred to the Orientation Center, a center-based program in Lincoln, Nebraska. Referrals to the Orientation Center are typically closed from independent living services and reopened for vocational rehabilitation services with an Individualized Program for Employment and a goal of "homemaker."

Promoting Independent Living for the Blind of Omaha (PILBO) represents a partnership between NCBVI and the Enrichment Foundation, a private, not-for-profit organization serving people with disabilities. The target population served by PILBO includes blind and visually impaired persons 21 years of age or older living in the greater Omaha metropolitan area with independent living rather than vocational goals. A significant number of people benefiting from this program are 55 years of age and older. The partnership between NCBVI and the Enrichment Foundation just finished its sixth year of operation. In calendar year 2012, the Enrichment Foundation awarded PILBO \$10,000, the entire amount expended on assistive technology promoting greater independence for people in the target population. A grant application for \$10,000 for use in 2013 has been submitted to the Enrichment Foundation. NCBVI and the Enrichment Foundation are committed to continuing this partnership indefinitely.

A campaign initiated by the National Federation of the Blind of Nebraska (NFBN) resulted in a \$75,000 annual increase in state funding to NCBVI's biennium budget for the expansion of services to older blind consumers in FY2007. On October 1, 2007, an Older Blind Specialist based in Kearney, Nebraska was hired to kick off the project. A similar initiative by NFBN in FY 2009 resulted in another \$55,000 increase of NCBVI's budget and the addition of another counselor dedicated to the older blind program based in Omaha, Nebraska. Given the current economic downturn, The NCBVI and NFBN will not request additional funds for older blind services as the next biennium approaches, but communications with state legislators will be made regarding the importance of maintaining support for much needed services at current levels. So long as the need for services to older blind

consumers exceeds NCBVI's capacity to meet the need satisfactorily, NCBVI and NFBN will continue to work in partnership to further increase state funding for older blind services once the economy improves.

Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) is the state program charged with providing information about assistive technology for people with disabilities and resources for acquiring technology. NCBVI participates in a web based inventory lending program coordinated by ATP. Browsers of the www.at4all.com web site interested in assistive technology for blind and visually impaired consumers are encouraged to contact NCBVI for a demonstration or short term loan of the equipment.

Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) is the state agency charged with the delivery of vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to consumers with disabilities other than blindness. Commission counselors recognize their expertise and often consult with VR counselors regarding best approaches to serving blind and visually impaired consumers with secondary disabilities.

Consumers with some functional vision will be referred to the Low Vision Clinic, University of Nebraska Medical Center, for low vision evaluations to determine how aids and devices can help them best use their remaining vision. Consumers in more remote parts of the state will be referred to local eye care professionals offering low vision evaluations. NCBVI provides low vision aids and devices subsequent to such evaluations.

NCBVI counselors routinely refer consumers to services offered by other agencies including Talking Book and Braille Services, Newslines (coordinated by the National Federation of the Blind), Radio Talking Book, subsidized taxi coupon programs (Share a Fare in Omaha and Give A Lift in Lincoln, both coordinated by the American Council of the Blind of Nebraska), Aurora Ministries, and so on. NCBVI also works with Area Agencies on Aging, the Nebraska Commission for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, centers for independent living, philanthropic organizations serving people with disabilities, and many others to better serve mutual clients.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds were used to produce a 7-part video series, "Pathways to Independence," specifically designed for use by older blind and visually impaired consumers to complement training provided by rehabilitation teachers. The production of these materials was completed towards the middle of FY 2011. These materials are available for purchase by other agencies and individuals. They can also be downloaded free of charge directly from NCBVI's website.

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

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)

		Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Table 2.1A: Independent living services			
Core IL Services - Information and referral	x	X	X
Core IL Services - IL skills training	X	x	X
Core IL Services - Peer counseling	x	X	X
Core IL Services - Individual and systems advocacy	x	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
Rehabilitation technology	X		
Mobility training	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
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		
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities			x

		Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)		
Supported living			
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	X		x
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices			
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		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
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
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act			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.

The State Independent Living Service partners will collaborate to redirect the allocation of Part B funds as deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve the objectives

NESILC, CILs, and the DSUs will collaborate to maintain, expand, and sustain a comprehensive network of independent living services to address the needs of Nebraskans experiencing disabilities with emphasis on those currently unserved or underserved.

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.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

The following information is applicable to services provided by Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP)

ATP is a service provider for the State of Nebraska. No individual will be eligible to receive financial assistance from Part B Funds that exceed 5% of the total amount of Part B Funds that ATP receives in any fiscal year funding period during which assistance is provided.

Policy on individual voluntary participation in the cost of IL services

Individuals and their families will be asked to participate in the cost of Part B services by the Program Coordinator. The cost participation is not mandatory, but a contribution based on an informed decision involving annual income and available assets or other factors will be encouraged.

individual voluntary participation in the cost of IL services

The Assistive Technology Partnership Funding Coordinator will use the Financial Information on the Service and Device Application form to begin the discussion regarding the potential amount of money the person and his or her family will voluntarily contribute toward the cost of the Part B funded project, where applicable. This will be done as part of the development of the funding package based on the project plan and quotes. This would be a nominal amount or more to help defray cost of the service and to increase the capacity to ensure prompt, equitable access to assistive technology, home modifications, and other IL services for individuals with disabilities and their families through the increased utilization of shared and contributed resources

The Assistive Technology Partnership will issue a written authorization to the service provider before the purchase of services. In an emergency situation where the Assistive Technology Partnership makes an oral authorization, prompt documentation and written authorization is sent to the service provider. In no case will funds be used for services that have been provided prior to issuance of a service authorization.

Prioritization of services

If funding is not available to provide for all the goods and services the individual needs to meet their IL needs, the individual may be asked to prioritize the goods and services.

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.

The DSU grants Federal and State funds to Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) for the provision of services. These services include: Advocacy, Assistive Devices, Children’s Services, Communication Services, Counseling Services, Home Modifications, Information and Referral, Independent Living Training Services, Life Skills Training, Peer Counseling Services, Prosthesis, Rehabilitation Technology, Transportation, and Vehicle Modifications.

The determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for individuals who receive these services have been delegated to ATP.

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.

The DSUs grant Federal and State funds to Panhandle Independent Living Services (PILS) for the purpose of general operation of a center.

The determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for individuals who receive these services has been delegated to PILS.

The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program.

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.

Independence Rising
(formerly Center for Independent Living of Central
Nebraska, Inc)

Receives Part C funding

Address 1 3204 College St
Address 2 P.O. Box 1863
City Grand Island
State NE
Zipcode 68803-1730
Toll Free Phone 877.400.1004
Phone (308) 382-9255
TTY/TDD (308) 382-9255
Fax 308.384.7832
Email jthomas@cilne.org
Website www.cilne.org
Executive Director Ms. Joni Thomas
Geography:

Counties served by Independence Rising (formerly the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska): Adams, Arthur, Blaine, Buffalo, Chase, Clay, Grant, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Greeley, Gosper, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Kearney, Keith, Lincoln, Thomas, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Merrick, Nucholls, Perkins, Phelps, Red Willow, Webster, Wheeler, Sherman, Valley.

Panhandle Independent Living Services

Receives Part B funding

Address 1 PO Box 2454
Address 2
City Scottsbluff
State NE
Zipcode 69363-2454
Toll Free Phone
Phone (308) 635.7901
TTY/TDD (308) 635.7901
Fax 308.635.7676
Email pils@allophone.com
Website

Executive Director Mr. Elden Plettner
Geography:

Counties served by Panhandle Independent Living Services: Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux.

League of Human Dignity, Inc.
Receives Part C funding
Address 1 1701 P Street
Address 2
City Lincoln
State NE
Zipcode 68508
Toll Free Phone (888) 508-4758
Phone (402) 441-7871
TTY/TDD (402) 441-7871
Fax (402) 441-7650
Email info@leagueofhumandignity.com
Website www.leagueofhumandignity.com
Executive Director Mr. Mike Schafer
Geography: Serves counties in both Nebraska and Iowa

Counties served by League of Human Dignity in Nebraska: Cass, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Knox, Lancaster, Madison, Nance, Pierce, Platte, Polk, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Stanton, Thayer, Thurston, Washington, Wayne, York, Antelope, Boone, Burt, Butler.

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).

The unserved or underserved populations to be designated a priority for outreach efforts are: individuals with disabilities including but not limited to individuals with brain injuries and psychiatric disabilities, these individuals face additional barriers of living in a very rural state plus being a minimum funding state. Examples of the barriers include poverty, transportation and distance.

Outreach efforts will be statewide.

The unserved and underserved geographic areas to focus on are North Central, South East, and northwest Nebraska. There are 6 Counties in the North Central region that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL – Cherry, Brown, Rock, Hold, Boyd and Keya Paha. There are 5 Counties in the South East Nebraska that are currently not included in the service area of any CIL – Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee, and Richardson. . North West Nebraska is served by Panhandle Independent Living Services, a center that does not receive any Part C funds. The Part B Center covers Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties.

The consumers in these unserved and underserved areas are provided IL services in the following ways:

- The League of Human Dignity conducts Medicaid Waiver Assessments for individuals in these Counties.
- The Assistive Technology Partnership completes barrier removal assessments for individuals in these Counties who are consumers of Vocational Rehabilitation and for individuals in need of Part B Independent Living services.

Through the provision of these services individuals found to be in need of more extensive services to include core services provided by the Centers for Independent Living would be referred to the nearest CIL for those services. Those services would be provided on an itinerate basis.

During the past year Independence Rising (formerly the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska) continues to operate the several satellite office in western Nebraska. This has better ensured independent living services are available to an underserved part of the State.

Part B funding will be distributed to fund the NESILC, the Panhandle Independent Living Services (PILS) and the Assistive Technology Partnership (ATP) to provide IL services. This will still allow limited use of Chapter I Part B funds for direct client services.

The Part C funds will continue to be distributed to the Centers for Independent Living in Nebraska [League of Human Dignity and the Center for Independence Rising (formerly the Independent Living of Central Nebraska)] based on the current distribution percentage. That percentage is 84.5 percent for the League of Human Dignity and 15.5 percent for the Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska.. If any Center would exceed the minimum funding level during a fiscal year, the formula would be re-evaluated.

An assessment of the needs of the counties which are unserved or underserved found that waiver services and some independent living services are being provided there on a limited basis. All additional Part C funds will be distribute to bring all Part C CILs to a minimum funding level of \$250,000.00 and any additional Part B funds will be used to increase funding for Part B CIL to \$250,000.00. With increased funding to all CILs the current network would meet the needs of all individuals with disabilities providing that a new Part C Center is created by following the established protocol and soliciting new groups and the current Part B Center to submit proposals to RSA.

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. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

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.

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.
- Angela Fujan, Program Director of Independent Living, serves as liaison to the SILC for Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation. In that capacity she attends all quarterly meetings, serves on Resource Development Committees, and assists with the preparation and submittal of the 704 Report and the SPIL.
- VR Program Specialist reviews the quarterly progress and expenditure reports submitted by the PILS and SILC and processes quarterly payments to them.
- VR Fiscal Specialist conducts annual on-site audits of the PILS and PILS submits a copy of financial records to VR Fiscal Specialist for quarterly audit. He also provides technical assistance as requested. SILC also submits a copy of financial records for quarterly audits.

- Bob Deaton, Deputy Director of Independent Living Services, represents the Nebraska Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (NCBVI) at quarterly meetings of the SILC and serves on the SILC Outreach Committee and SPIL committee. He also directs the Part B program as administered by NCBVI. Three field supervisors and 16 rehabilitation counselors and teachers provide direct independent living services to consumers. He administers the Chapter 2 older Individuals who are Blind Program.
- Funding Coordinator for ATP determines eligibility for and allocates Title VII, Chapter I, Part B funds for approved projects.
- Rehabilitation Associate for ATP provides assistance in processing applications for services and general clerical support for the Title VII, Chapter I, Part B program.

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

Not applicable

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.

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

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

- The SILC’s responsibility is 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.

The SILC will receive:

\$76,586.00 for Year 1 of Part B Funds

\$76,685 for Year 2 of Part B Funds

\$76,885.00 for Year 3 of Part B Funds

This is for operational expenses and to carry out the SILC duties required by the Rehabilitation Act, including the activities, monitoring, and evaluation of the State Plan for

Independent Living.

The SILC provides all meeting space & Council membership provides the human resources needed for all SPIL related activities.

In addition \$5400.00 in Part B Funds will be provided annually to aid in SPIL activities

NESILC staff shall include one part-time Executive Director and one part-time Administrative Assistant. In addition NESILC will work with an accountant/bookkeeper for accounting duties as needed.

The Executive Director will be hired by the Council. NESILC Executive Committee Chair provides supervision of the Executive Director. The Executive Director's annual performance appraisal will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will hire, supervise, and annually evaluate all other staff.

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.

– Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

NESILC will continue to outsource specific accounting procedures that enhance internal control of the small agency. NESILC will continue to make records available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Fiscal supervisor for on-site reviews of compliance with the award agreement.

The SILC was established to meet the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VII, Chapter 1 as amended in 1992. Given the fact that the SILC was created by federal legislation, a state law or governor's executive order was not used to establish a SILC in Nebraska. The SILC operates as an autonomous, free standing entity whose members were appointed by the Department of Education (Governor's designee). It developed bylaws consistent with mandates of Title VII and took on full partnership with the DSUs in developing, implementing, and monitoring the SPIL. In order to more clearly define its rather nebulous legal standing, the Nebraska SILC incorporated and became a 501(c)3 in the 2003. Although the SILC is now a non-profit corporation, the members continue to be appointed by the Department of Education, based upon all the requirements in the federal Rehabilitation Act. The Nebraska SILC is an independent entity with respect to the DSUs and all other state agencies.

Maximize existing resources and identify opportunities for expansion of services resulting in a comprehensive statewide independent living service delivery system. This ensures individuals with the most significant disabilities, regardless of minority status or geographic location have equal access to necessary services.

Eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort by State Independent Living Service partners. This maximizes existing resources which will ensure not only sustaining the existing services but to expand upon them.

Identify areas where through collaboration and taking advantage of each other's limited resources enables the State Independent Living Service partners to achieve common goals.

Better ensure a more comprehensive assessment of consumer issues, concerns, and service needs occur than could be accomplished by any one partner alone

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.

–Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The SILC was established to meet the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VII, Chapter 1 as amended in 1992. Given the fact that the SILC was created by federal legislation, a state law or governor's executive order was not used to establish a SILC in Nebraska. The SILC operates as an autonomous, free standing entity whose members were appointed by the Department of Education (Governor's designee). It developed bylaws consistent with mandates of Title VII and took on full partnership with the DSUs in developing, implementing, and monitoring the SPIL. In order to more clearly define its rather nebulous legal standing, the Nebraska SILC incorporated and became a 501(c)3 in the 2003. Although the SILC is now a non-profit corporation, the members continue to be appointed by the Department of Education, based upon all the requirements in the federal Rehabilitation Act. The Nebraska SILC is an independent entity with respect to the DSUs and all other state agencies.

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).

– Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

Recruitment Policy

The Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council shall be composed of individuals who provide statewide representation; represent a broad range of individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds; are knowledgeable about centers for independent living and independent living services; and a majority of whom are persons who are individuals with disabilities as

described in section 7(20)(B) of the Rehabilitation Act and not employed by any State agency or center for independent living.

1. The Recruitment Committee will meet prior to each quarterly meeting of the full Council to determine the ongoing need for people to sit on the Council as voting members.
2. Whether or not there is a position to be filled, the Recruitment Committee will engage in a continuous process to recruit individuals to serve as voting members of the Council.
3. Upon receipt of an application, the recruitment committee will engage in the following activities:
 - a. Review status of all applications, new and existing.
 - b. Contact applicant(s) to determine a time and method to interview the prospective member using a form approved by Executive Committee. Each applicant will be given an interview.
 - c. Discuss applicants' qualifications and interview.
 - d. Recommend prospective candidates to the full Council.
 - e. Report on recommendations at the full Council meeting.
4. The full NESILC board will then vote on whether to forward the applicant's name on to the Nebraska Department of Education (Department) for appointment. Candidates will then be informed of their application status.
5. After the Department votes, candidates will be informed of either their acceptance or rejection. Successful candidates will be sent orientation and training materials prior to their first full council meeting as a NESILC member.
6. Each member of the NESILC shall serve a term of 3 years. No member of the NESILC may serve more than two consecutive full terms. NESILC and DSUs maintain a roster of the NESILC membership to include their term expiration date. At least once a year the NESILC reviews this information to ensure proper and sufficient notification is provided to the member regarding their impending expiration date.

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, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

- NESILC staff shall include one part-time Executive Director and one part-time Administrative Assistant. In addition NESILC will work with an accountant/bookkeeper for accounting duties.

- The Executive Director will be hired by the Council. NESILC Executive Committee Chair provides supervision of the Executive Director. The Executive Director’s annual performance appraisal will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will hire, supervise, and annually evaluate all other staff.

- NESILC agrees that DSU staff or staff from any other agency or office made available to NESILC will not be assigned any duties that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the NESILC in carrying out its duties

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

ATP maintains detailed job descriptions for specialists in the provision of the contracted services for assistive technology and home modifications for independent living and employment.

ATP, as a state agency and as a federally funded Tech Act Program, has a policy emphasizing recruitment of qualified persons with disabilities for project positions. New position openings are posted with centers for independent living, rehabilitation agencies, and service providers working with persons with disabilities in an effort to identify potential qualified persons with disabilities interested in project positions.

ATP has personnel able to communicate in a wide variety of alternative communications modes. These include sign language, augmentative communications devices (maintaining many devices for short term loans to individuals), and amplification systems. ATP provides information and materials in alternative formats as necessary, including electronic formats and Braille (via an agreement with NCBVI). ATP utilizes the AT&T Language line services for communication with non-English speaking individuals over the phone, and contracts with sign and foreign language interpreters as necessary for face to face meetings. Written materials are available in several non-English languages.

Several of ATP staff, including the Director, have previous experience working for a CIL and have knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

PILS staff members will possess a procedure manual for their positions. Staff members will participate in training on independent living issues, record keeping and adult learning on an ongoing basis. Composition of the Staff will continue to meet the criterion of at least 51% individuals with disabilities.

PILS staff will continue to meet requests to accommodate communication needs through electronic media, modified print materials, and the use of sign language interpreters; and will consult appropriate community resources when necessary.

PILS will maintain an affirmative action policy of nondiscrimination as set forth in its statement of values, statement of consumer rights, and employee handbook; and will post position openings with public news media, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Nebraska Workforce Development.

NESILC will continue to outsource specific accounting procedures that enhance internal control of the small agency. NESILC will continue to make records available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Fiscal supervisor for on-site reviews of compliance with the award agreement.

The Center for Independent Living of Central Nebraska (CILNE) staff have in their possession their Job Descriptions and the CILCN Policy and Procedure Manual. All staff are trained about the Independent Living Philosophy and the use of People First Language. CILNE staff are made aware of various training and workshops about Independent Living, including various WEB

casts presented by ILRU.

If requested CILNE staff make available to consumers alternative formats to include: Braille, Sign Language Interpreters, and other formats as necessary. CILNE also works with the community on various formats as needed.

The League of Human Dignity has appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

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.

ATP, within the Nebraska Department of Education, is the recipient of numerous Federal and state grants and contracts. Consequently, it has established and maintains general grants management policies, procedures, and practices that are in full compliance with all Federal requirements in EDGAR. These policies include an annual audit by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts to assure proper fiscal management and accounting.

PILS will make records available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Fiscal supervisor for on-site reviews of compliance with the award agreement.

CILNE has appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

The League of Human Dignity has appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

6.3 Recordkeeping, 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.
- Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate
- 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 Nebraska Department of Education (which includes VR and ATP) has adopted special fiscal control and accounting procedures as are necessary to ensure proper disbursement of and accounting for funds expended under the its programs, including those expended for Part B. These special procedures will include provisions that all funds will be expended in accordance

with the provisions of this program and for authorized activities included in the approved contract for services and Part B Guidelines.

ATP also meets regularly with the VR IL Program Director to report on performance and finances.

PILS and NESILC submits quarterly performance and financial reports. DSU reviews actual expenditures twice yearly and reconciles statements.

CILNE has policies and procedures in place to ensure compliance with 34 CFR 364.37.

The League of Human Dignity has appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.

NESILC in conjunction with VR, NCBVI, ATP and PILS submit annual 704 Report for Part B funds. While League of Human Dignity and CILNE submit 704 Report for Part C Funds.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

ATP administers the Part B services in compliance with Part B Guidelines approved by the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council. The guidelines for eligibility are in compliance with 34 CFR 364.51 and are without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services. ATP routinely refers individuals to other programs for IL services. This ability is enhanced through another contract with the Nebraska Health and Human Services System for assistive technology and home modifications services under the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver. The intent of this Waiver is to allow individuals with disabilities at risk of institutionalization to remain living as independently as possible in their own homes.

Any individual with a significant disability, as reported by that individual, will be eligible for PILS services. Staff will discuss eligibility requirements with the consumer or advocate and

record eligibility without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the person applying for IL services.

United States Citizenship Attestation

For the purpose of complying with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 4-108 through 4-114, I attest as follows:

I am a citizen of the United States.

PILS staff will continue to receive requests for information from any person regarding PILS and other available programs, and make referrals to other programs. Staff will provide that information through verbal consultation, printed material supplied by other programs, and directories. PILS will continue to print and update a Panhandle Disability Resource Directory.

The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program

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.

ATP provides or contracts for IL services based on an IL plan comprised of a Service and Device Application Form (that outlines the requested services, available resources, and demographic and financial information); a Technology Specialist evaluation report (that includes input from the consumer as to what is needed and why, recommendations and justification, a plan and specifications as necessary); cost of the services and available resources (subcontractor quotes and a Service Authorization); and an Acceptance/Agreement form that is signed by the consumer (to signify that the services have been satisfactorily completed).

Unless the individual signs a waiver, PILS staff will provide IL services in accordance with a written IL plan developed by the individual with a significant disability and the staff member, indicating the goals, objectives and services requested. The plan will be periodically reviewed regarding the continued relevance of services and the appropriateness of referral to other programs. To the greatest extent possible, the plan will be coordinated with the individualized plans of other service programs.

The other Nebraska CILs receive Part C funds and have the sole responsibility for the determination of eligibility for services and the development of an IL plan for all individuals served by their program

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.

ATP informs all individuals seeking or receiving IL services under Part B of the availability of the CAP program and how to contact CAP.

PILS will inform individuals seeking or receiving IL services of the availability of the Client Assistance Program, the purpose of their services, and how to contact the program, through the provision of CAP printed brochures or a PILS statement of Consumer Rights and Responsibilities.

The Nebraska CILs inform all individuals seeking or receiving IL services of the availability of the Client Assistance Program, the purpose of CAP services, and how to contact the program. On an annual basis the CAP director contacts the CILs to remind them of the services, answer any questions, respond to any issues, and provide training to any new staff members.

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.

ATP uses the Service and Device Application Form as an intake form and that form includes a confidentiality statement and a release of information that is signed by the consumer and kept in the consumer file.

PILS will include confidentiality issues in new staff orientation and periodically in staff meetings of all employees. A statement regarding confidentiality will be included in all staff position manuals. PILS will maintain consumer records within closed units accessed only by staff. Records will not be removed from the PILS office. Consumers will be informed that staff will not release individual information without a signed release of information. The release will specify the information to be released, the receiving agency, and the authorization's date of expiration.

The CILs have appropriate policies, procedures, and systems in place to assure compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations to include 34 CFR 364.56(a).

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

The NESILC staff and the SPIL Committee will complete a quarterly performance report looking at each Goal and Objective to determine what progress has been made. These reports will be distributed to all NESILC Members, the DSUs.

The SILC has created a Scorecard to be distributed to members, DSU's, ATP and CILs to determine the status made on each Goal on a quarterly basis.

Each Goal will receive a NESILC committee assignment. The committee will monitor that Goal and Objectives. The committee chair will provide the full Council with a written and/or oral report of that progress at the quarterly NESILC meetings.

The State evaluates satisfaction of individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program in the following ways:

- ATP obtains a signed Acceptance and Agreement form to ensure work planned for has been completed to the satisfaction of the consumer. The consumer signs off on the form prior to payment to the contractor or vendor for the agreed upon services. In an effort to further evaluate the effectiveness of the plan and services provided to meet the consumers' objectives ATP sends out a questionnaire six weeks after a request is completed. This information is compiled and evaluated quarterly. The return rate ranges from 50-60%.
- PILS mails a printed survey to consumers once during the year addressing satisfaction with service, staff, and the facility. Participants in PILS advocacy and skills workshops, informative presentations, and the annual Joint Agency Meeting are asked to complete written evaluations at the time of the event. The questionnaires ask for ratings and comments on content, format and the facility. PILS staff have ongoing informal conversations with consumers, which include evaluation, choice of instruction, and relationship to other community services.
- Independence Rising (formerly CILNE) on an annual basis mails stakeholders surveys to consumers and agencies to gather feedback regarding satisfaction with services delivered.
- League of Human Dignity solicits consumer satisfaction through the use of consumer satisfaction surveys which are distributed to all consumers whether CIL or other program.

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL. Indicate N/A if not applicable. 34 CFR 364.20(h)

Not applicable