

# State Plan For Independent Living (SPIL)

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

Part B - INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

Part C - Centers for Independent Living

State: Montana

FISCAL YEARS: 2025-2027

Effective Date: 10/01/2024

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Montana Statewide Plan for Independent Living was collaboratively developed with members of the Montana Statewide Independent Living Council, the Centers for Independent Living, and the Disability Employment and Transitions Division within the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. This document provides those involved a framework to provide better developed independent living services, to promote expanded independent living opportunities, and to better integrate independent living services throughout Montana.

The mission of the Montana Independent Living community is focused on making independent living a reality in the community of their choice for Montanans with disabilities. Thus, the SPIL focuses on three main goals to facilitate independent living:

1. Promote awareness of Independent Living services for those with disabilities across Montana.
2. Provide factual evidence to stake holders, community members, and state and local legislatures to provide best practices that advocate for systemic change in the Independent Living community.
3. Develop integrated community access for Montanans with disabilities.

Additionally, center to many recent and on-going discussions within the Independent Living community in Montana is House Bill 922, or the Olmstead Plan for Montana. This bill was signed into law on May 18, 2023, and has been a pivotal force in how and why the SPIL goals have been written. Presently, the bill focuses on the implementation of the Olmstead Plan within the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. A major goal of all involved in the new state plan is expanding the Olmstead Plan to all applicable State Divisions within Montana.

This document's mission and goals support a 3-year plan for Independent Living. Each goal with its associated objectives outlines which entity will complete each step within the objective, the timeline for completion, and the measurable indicators of successful completion. The table format allows those using this document as a guide to visualize vertically the steps to completion and the entities completing each part.

This document also describes the vast size and diversity within the State of Montana. Montana is comprised of eight Native American reservations. Approximately 8% of the population of Montana is Native Americans. Thus, outreach and partnerships with the Native American tribes and Indian Health is critical in meeting the Independent Living needs of this population. Additionally, creative solutions to distance and remoteness continues to challenge the Independent Living Centers across the state. Satellite offices, mobile offices, and ZOOM meetings are integral in supporting Montanans with disabilities across the 4th largest state in the nation.

Crucial to this document are the funding sources and the process of awarding these funds to the four CILs within the state. Annually, Part C funds, Part B funds, and the General Funds amounts are totaled and equalized. In Montana each of the four CILs are being funded at the same amount. With the diversity, distance, and differences within each region of the state, each CIL strives to best serve those with disabilities within the Big Sky region.

# Section 1: Mission, Goals, Objectives, and Activities

## 1.1 - MISSION

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

Together the MTSILC, MT CILs, and Disability Employment and Transitions (DSE) work together to advocate and facilitate independent living for Montanans with disabilities by promoting and practicing a philosophy of consumer control, development of peer relationships and peer role models, self-determination, self-help, equal access, and advocacy. Thus, maximizing independence, integration, and full inclusion of people with disabilities into mainstream Montana.

## 1.2 - GOALS

Goals of the SPIL

Goal #1: Promote awareness of Independent Living Services for those with disabilities across Montana.

Goal #2: Provide factual evidence to stake holders, community members, and state and local legislatures to provide best practices that advocate for systemic change in the Independent Living community.

Goal #3: Develop integrated community access for Montanans with disabilities.

## 1.3 - OBJECTIVES

Objectives for the three-year period of the plan – including geographic scope, desired outcomes, target dates, and indicators. Including compatibility with the purpose of Title VII, Chapter 1.

Goal #1: Promote awareness of Independent Living Services for those with disabilities across Montana.

Objective #1.1: Conduct meaningful outreach to current consumers.

### **Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #1.1.1: (Year 1) Identify clients, develop initial survey, and distribute survey to present consumers.

Indicator #1.1.2: (Year 2) Measure satisfaction/strengths/needs of published survey and redistribute updated survey.

Indicator #1.1.3: (Year 3) Collect useful data that CILs use to identify strengths and areas of focus to ultimately implement change.

### **Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #1.2: Conduct meaningful outreach/public relations to perspective consumers, caregivers, and stakeholders.

### **Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #1.2.1: (Year 1) Identify methodology to be used to increase outreach and public relations.

Indicator #1.2.2: (Year 2) Increase the number of SILC/CIL Board membership, increase number of SILC/CIL volunteers, develop and provide leadership opportunities with SILC membership, and increase partnership and collaboration with stakeholders.

Indicator #1.2.3: (Year 3) Increase the number of SILC/CIL Board membership, increase number of SILC/CIL volunteers, develop and provide leadership opportunities with SILC membership, and increase partnership and collaboration with stakeholders.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #2: Provide factual evidence to stake holders, community members, and state and local legislatures to provide best practices that advocate for systemic change in the Independent Living community.

Objective #2.1: Educate ourselves, form our position, and express our position to stakeholders and policy makers by using white papers to advocate for systemic change (topics potentially including: employment first, coordinated transportation).

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.1.1: (Year 1) Identify topic(s) to be researched and complete necessary research. Educate those involved in the SILC Board and CILs.

Indicator #2.1.2: (Year 2) Draft white paper(s).

Indicator #2.1.3: (Year 3) White paper(s) distributed to establish public opinion and advocate for systemic change.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #2.2: Determine, write, and distribute White Paper(s) focused on topics important to Montanans living with disabilities to create systems change and the implementation of effective practices and policies.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #2.2.1: (Year 1) Identify topic(s) to be researched and complete all research. Educate those involved in the SILC Board and CILs.

Indicator #2.2.2: (Year 2) Draft white paper(s).

Indicator #2.2.3: (Year 3) Distribute white papers to establish public opinion, create systems change, and implement effective practices and policies.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Goal #3: Develop integrated community access for Montanans with disabilities.

Objective #3.1: SILC will support through its Olmstead Committee education and awareness to ultimately support a unified state plan.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #3.1.1: (Year 1) HB922 (Olmstead Plan) amended to include all State Departments (not solely DPHHS) by statute or executive order.

Indicator #3.1.2: (Year 2) Increasing opportunities for peer development with attendance at IL Symposium and increase number of peer mentors engaging in leadership roles in task forces.

Indicator #3.1.3: (Year 3) Refined and finished Unified state plan in Montana.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:** Statewide

Objective #3.2: Create access to the disability community as contributing participants in development of policy and practice.

**Measurable Indicators:**

Indicator #3.2.1: (Year 1) HB922 (Olmstead Plan) amended to include all State Departments (not solely DPHHS) by statute or executive order.

Indicator #3.2.2: (Year 2) Increasing opportunities for peer development with attendance at IL Symposium and increase number of peer mentors engaging in leadership roles in task forces.

Indicator #3.2.3: (Year 3) Refined and finished Unified state plan in Montana.

**Other Objective info and/or Activities (optional):**

**Geographic Scope:**

## 1.4 - EVALUATION

The SPIL Evaluation Committee will meet quarterly to determine completion of SPIL goals. The SPIL goals were broken down into objectives. These objectives were subdivided into tasks to be completed quarterly. Successful completion of the individual tasks indicate the desired outcomes of the SPIL are being met.

**Goal #1: Promote awareness of Independent Living Services for those with disabilities across Montana.**

*Objective #1.1: Conduct meaningful outreach to current consumers.*

Year 1: Indicators of successful SPIL completion: Identification of clients and survey development and distribution to present consumers.

Measurable progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2024 (SILC)
  - Identify the specific items needed to be measured
  - Identify specific parameters of the survey.
- Q2: end Mar. 2025 (SILC, DSE)
  - Determine a method (including cost analysis) of conducting survey that generates sufficient data to measure CIL satisfaction.

- Q3: end June 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Develop a satisfaction survey.
- Q4: end Sept. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Initial survey distribution.

Year 2: Indicators of successful SPIL completion: Generate Quantitative data indicating satisfaction/strengths/needs and redistribute an updated survey if needed with identified areas needing to be addressed.

Measurable Progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Distribute/collection initial survey.
- Q2: end Mar. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Collect and examine results.
- Q3: end June 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Modify survey.
- Q4: end Sept. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Redistribute updated survey.

Year 3: Indicator of successful SPIL completion: Collection of useful data that CILs use to identify areas of strengths and areas to focus.

Measurable Progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Collect surveys,
  - Merge two-years of collected data
- Q2: end Mar. 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Analyze data, distribute data to CILs.
- Q3: end June 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Create plan for long-term distribution and use of survey.
- Q4: end Sept. 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Finalized plan for long-term distribution and use of survey.

*Objective #1.2: Conduct meaningful outreach and public relations to perspective consumers, caregivers, and stakeholders.*

Year 1: Identify methodology to be used.

Measurable Progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2024 (SILC, CILs)
  - Determine outreach priorities

- Q2: end Mar. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Review methods
- Q3: end June 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Review methods
  - Cost analysis/identify free sources of outreach
- Q4: end Sept. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Work on identifying methodology to be used

Year 2: Increase SILC/CIL Board membership, increase SILC/CIL volunteers, develop and provide leadership opportunities with SILC membership, and increase partnership and collaboration with stakeholders.

Measurable Progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Implementation plan
- Q2: end Mar. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Maintenance to existing plan
- Q3: end June 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Maintenance to existing plan
- Q4: end Sept. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Conduct reassessment of plan

Year 3: Increase SILC/CIL Board membership, increase SILC/CIL volunteers, develop and provide leadership opportunities with SILC membership, and increase partnership and collaboration with stakeholders.

Measurable Progress:

- Q1: end Dec. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Assess and modification of plan
- Q2: end Mar. 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Implementation identified updates
- Q3: end June 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Implement new plan
- Q4: end Sept. 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Final Assessment

**Goal #2: Provide factual evidence to stake holders, community members, and state and local legislatures to provide best practices that advocate for systemic change in the Independent Living community.**

*Objective #2.1: Educate ourselves (SILC members and CILs), form our position, and express our position to stakeholders and policy makers by using white papers to advocate for systemic change (topics potentially including: employment first, coordinated transportation).*

*Objective #2.2: Determine, write, and distribute White Paper(s) focused on topics important to Montanans living with disabilities to create systems change and the implementation of effective practices and policies.*

Year 1: Identify topic(s) to be researched and complete needed research.

Measurable Progress

- Q1: end Dec. 2024 (SILC, CILs)
  - Soliciting input of ideas
- Q2: end March 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Topics identified and set
  - Committee set and Chair named
- Q3: end June 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Research and education
  - Experts identified and consulted
- Q4: end Sept. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Wrap-up research and supporting information for writing white paper(s)

Year 2: Draft White papers.

- Q1: end Dec. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Outline of research
- Q2: end March 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Produce abstract
- Q3: end June 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Develop drafts
- Q4: end Sept 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Final draft for submission by SILC and CILs

Year 3: Paper(s) distributed to establish public opinion to create systems change and the implementation of effective practices and policies.

- Q1: end Dec. 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - Solicit input on final draft from stake holders, community members
- Q2: end March 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Continue solicitation on final draft
  - Finalize position

- Q3: end June 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Distribute to community stake holders, state government, state and local elected officials
- Q4: end Sept 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - Distribute to community stake holders, state gov., state and local elected officials

**Goal #3: Develop integrated community access for Montanans with disabilities.**

*Objective #3.1 SILC will support through its Olmstead Committee education and awareness it will support a unified state plan.*

*Objective #3.2 Create access to the disability community as contributing participants in development of policy and practice.*

Year 1: HB922 (Olmstead Plan) amended to include all State Departments (not solely DPHHS) by statute or executive order.

- Pre-Q1: Sept.2024 (SILC, CILs, Rural Institute, State Government Departments)
  - hold IL symposium (discuss with admin. of other depts. w/in state)
- Q1: end Dec 2024 (SILC, CILs, Rural Institute, State Government Departments)
  - Identify and invite to SILC meeting (in hour slots) partner w/ Department administrators and provide education- advocate for inclusion of all Departments in Olmstead Amendment.
- Q2: end March 2025 (SILC,CILs)
  - Advocating for the inclusion of all Departments in Olmstead amendment
- Q3: end June 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Advocating for the inclusion of all Departments in Olmstead amendment
- Q4: end Sept. 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - Advocating for the inclusion of all Departments in Olmstead amendment

Year 2: Increasing opportunities for peer development with attendance at IL Symposium and increase number of peer mentors engaging in leadership roles in task forces.

- Q1: end Dec 2025 (SILC, CILs)
  - SILC establish on-going Olmstead committee for consulting role
- Q2: end March 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - On-going consulting and representation on the work groups (through task force involvement)
- Q3: end June 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - On-going consulting and representation on the work groups (through task force involvement)
  - Develop summary for IL Symposium presentation
- Q4: end Sept. 2026 (SILC, CILs)

- Hold Symposium and task forces will be integrated in to work groups

Year 3: Refined and finished Unified state plan in Montana

- Q1: end Dec 2026 (SILC, CILs)
  - On-going consulting, representation, and maintenance on the work groups (through task force involvement)
- Q2: end March 2027
  - On-going consulting, representation, and maintenance on the work groups (through task force involvement)
  - Legislative education
- Q3: end June 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - On-going consulting, representation, and maintenance on the work groups (through task force involvement)
  - Legislative education
- Q4: end Sept. 2027 (SILC, CILs)
  - On-going consulting, representation, and maintenance on the work groups (through task force involvement)
  - Legislative education

## 1.5 - PART I: FINANCIAL PLAN

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

Fiscal Year(s): 2025 - 2027

October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2027

| Sources           | Projected Funding Amounts and Uses |             |                        |                       |                                  |          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
|                   | SILC Resource Plan                 | IL Services | General CIL Operations | Other SPIL Activities | Retained by DSE for Admin. Costs | TOTAL    |
| Title VII Funds   |                                    |             |                        |                       |                                  |          |
| Chapter 1, Part B | \$21823                            | \$311017    | \$0                    | \$0                   | \$17403                          | \$350243 |

|                                                       |         |          |           |         |         |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Chapter 1, Part C                                     | \$0     | \$0      | \$1094997 | \$0     |         | \$1094997 |
|                                                       |         |          |           |         |         | \$1445240 |
| Other Federal Funds                                   |         |          |           |         |         |           |
| Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion) | \$5000  | \$0      | \$0       | \$0     |         | \$5000    |
| Social Security Reimbursement                         | \$0     | \$0      | \$0       | \$0     |         | \$0       |
| Other                                                 | \$0     | \$0      | \$0       | \$0     |         | \$0       |
|                                                       |         |          |           |         |         | \$5000    |
| Non-Federal Funds                                     |         |          |           |         |         |           |
| Part B State Match                                    | \$0     | \$34557  | \$0       | \$0     | \$1934  | \$36491   |
| Other State Match for Funds in SPIL                   | \$0     | \$0      | \$0       | \$0     | \$0     | \$0       |
| State Funds                                           | \$0     | \$474948 | \$0       | \$82000 | \$0     | \$556948  |
| Other                                                 | \$0     | \$0      | \$0       | \$0     | \$0     | \$0       |
|                                                       |         |          |           |         |         | \$593439  |
| TOTAL                                                 | \$26823 | \$820522 | \$1094997 | \$82000 | \$19337 | \$2043679 |

## 1.5.2 - PART II: FINANCIAL PLANNING NARRATIVE

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the SPIL Goals and Objectives. Process for grants/contracts, selection of grantees, and distribution of funds to facilitate effective operations and provision of services.

The goals incorporated into this SPIL are supported through the contracts for services with the CILs from Part B, including the state match, listed under IL services; the CIL contracts for services from the state general fund listed under IL services; Part C funds listed under General CIL Operations. During allocation of state funding, issues such as the imbalance of federal funding are taken into consideration in order to equalize the funding among the centers to maintain equal accessibility of IL services throughout the state of Montana.

Part C funds, which are distributed directly to the CILs, are the primary funding source for supporting the operation of CILs and CILs goals. Part C funds are directly granted by ACL to all four Montana Centers for Independent Living. The state unit does not have the required funds to participate in the matching mechanism detailed in the statute; therefore, Part C grants are made directly to the CILs. Summit and MILP receive the majority of the Part C funds available to the state of Montana.

The following estimated projections are made for the Centers for Part B, Part C and State IL General Funds, actual distribution may vary as described previously in this plan to achieve the goal of equalization. (Section 1.5 Financial Plan)

Throughout the 3 years of this SPIL, each year of the SPIL the allocated independent living state general funds will be provided through a contract by the DSE, DETD, as follows:

- \$195,916.01 for LIFTT,
- \$82,530.61 for MILP,
- \$185,230.36 for NCILS, and
- \$11,271.02 for Summit.

These funds will be used for the core IL services and to provide services for identified underserved populations including Native Americans with disabilities, youth with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and persons with disabilities living in rural/remote areas.

In addition, for each year of the SPIL, the Montana SILC and DSE (DETD) have designated Part B funds that will be provided through a contract by the DSE, (DETD) as follows:

- \$152,928.48 for LIFTT,
- \$35,531.39 for MILP,
- \$148,694.68 for NCILS, and
- \$8,419.45 for Summit.

These Part B contract totals include the federal award portion and the state of Montana 10% match as required by the Notice of Award statement.

Finally, the SILC, CILs and DSE recognize the importance of providing IL services to people with disabilities throughout the state. Therefore, the Part C funds will be used to address these services. Part C is allocated by the federal government, and these funds are sent directly to each center. The total Part C amounts are as follows:

- \$130,035.00 for LIFTT,

- \$360,818.00 for MILP,
- \$144,955.00 for NCILS, and
- \$459,189.00 for Summit.

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

### 2.1 - SERVICES

Services to be provided to persons with significant disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility, and statewide reach.

#### Core Independent Living Services: Information and referral

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

#### Core Independent Living Services: IL skills training

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

#### Core Independent Living Services: Peer counseling

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

#### Core Independent Living Services: Individual and systems advocacy

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Transition Services: Transition from nursing homes and other institutions**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Transition Services: Diversion from institutions**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Transition Services: Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**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 disabilities)Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Rehabilitation technology**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Provided By | CIL<br>DSE |
|-------------|------------|

**Mobility training**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | No         |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation and other support services**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and independent living 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**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Provided By | CIL<br>DSE |
|-------------|------------|

**Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Supported living****Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation and training in the use of public transportation vehicles and systems**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Physical rehabilitation**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Therapeutic treatment**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Individual and group social and recreational services**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**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**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes |
| Provided By                                       | CIL |

**Services for children**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**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 disabilities**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with disabilities for similar services in the future**

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes |

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Provided using other funds? | Yes        |
| Provided By                 | CIL<br>DSE |

**Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

**Such other necessary services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the Act**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Is this service being provided?                   | Yes        |
| Provided using Title VII, Chapter 1 Part B funds? | Yes        |
| Provided using other funds?                       | Yes        |
| Provided By                                       | CIL<br>DSE |

## 2.1 - OPTIONAL MAP ATTACHMENT

Uploaded Document Name: Montana Centers For Independent Living Map.pdf

## 2.2 - OUTREACH TO UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

All 56 Montana counties are included within the service area of the four existing centers. All counties are served, with the mission of each CIL to best meet the needs of the underserved. Each of Montana's four CILs will determine the best course of action to address unmet and underserved needs within its service area. Montana has significant number of rural and frontier counties that are considered unserved and underserved. Additional focus will be on unserved and underserved populations of youth with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, and American Indians with disabilities.

The Montana Centers for Independent Living work diligently to meet the needs of people with disabilities within the state. Every county is served by a CIL with a focus of meeting the needs of the unserved and underserved Montanans. Montanans living in rural or frontier counties are considered underserved or unserved. Additionally, in unserved and underserved individuals also include Native Americans with disabilities, Veterans with disabilities, youth with disabilities, members of the LGBTQ+ community with disabilities, and individuals with mental illnesses.

Additionally, Montana has twelve federally recognized tribes dispersed throughout the state. Native American populations in Montana have been identified as being underserved. Second to individuals with disabilities, Native Americans are the largest minority group in the state. Native Americans compose 6.5% percent of Montana's population with 60% of the population living on one of the seven federally recognized reservations. Each of the CILs and the DSE work with Indian Health Services to develop an interconnected network that addresses the IL issues for Native American's that do not

reside on the reservation. The IL Network continues to focus on several priorities to address the needs expressed by Native Americans with disabilities.

- Summit Independent Living has one reservation in its service area.
- Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT) has two reservations in its service area.
- North Central Independent Living Services (NCILS) has five reservations in its service area.

Montana is a large and mostly rural state with areas of the state being designated as frontier given the low population density. Montana is the third least densely populated state in the United States. Forty-six of the fifty-six counties (82%) are considered frontier and average only 6.86 individuals per square mile of land. Those living in the rural areas furthest away from the larger cities are often underserved as well. The CILs have both branch offices and mobile offices to help ease the difficulty people with disabilities have in obtaining services and addressing issues in their communities and homes.

- NCILS has offices in Great Falls, Conrad, and Glasgow.
- MILP (Ability Montana) has offices in Helena, Butte, and Bozeman.
- Summit has offices in Missoula, Polson, Hamilton, and Kalispell, as well as a separate office in Missoula for youth programs.
- LIFTT has offices in Billings and Glendive.

In addition, LIFTT and NCILS have teamed together to serve the "big open" in the east-central part of the state with its population average of only 4 people per square mile.

Targeted populations reside in all areas of the state. The four CILs provide services in each of Montana's 56 counties, seven federally recognized Native American reservations, and one state federally recognized Native American community. With the implementation of WIOA, youth have become a focus point for the DSE, SILC, and CILs. The DSE is contracting with schools and MT CILs to provide pre-employment transition services. Statewide conferences such as The Montana Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) and the Montana Youth Transitions project are specifically designed to help youth develop the skills needed to succeed in life after high school. The individual CILs are also actively reaching out to youth through various programs such as Building Advocacy and Learning Leadership Skills (BALLS), Youth Opening Doors through Advocacy (YODA), Youth in Motion, and many others.

Veterans with disabilities have also been identified as an underserved population in Montana. Montana has one of the largest per capita veteran populations in the United States. It is estimated that nearly 1 in 11 (8.9%) Montana residents are Veterans. Data indicates 30.50% of Montana veterans have a disability. Of the nearly 90,000 Veterans living in Montana, roughly 22,000 receive Veterans Disability Compensation according to the VA (2017 numbers).

Montana is a vast state covering approximately 147,000 square miles, divided into 56 counties. Montana is the 4th largest state in the Nation and to drive east to west across the state you would travel 630 miles. Two-fifth's of the state is considered mountainous and three-fifth are part of the Great Plains.

SILC and the CILs conduct outreach and networking activities to promote the availability of IL services to Veterans with disabilities. MILP (dba Ability Montana) has developed a Veterans' Directed Care program, managed by a retired veteran. Additionally, various CILs have also collaborated with Joining Community Forces (JCF), the Montana Veterans Affairs office, the VA hospitals, the VA nursing homes. Likewise, LIFTT has partnered with the local court system to suspend sentences until after sobriety is obtained. Continued outreach is also conducted by participating in events such as the

Veterans Resource Fair and the yearly Memorial Run. Classes through the VA at Fort Harrison are offered and recreational outreach therapy programs such as sled hockey and "summer camp" fishing and rafting excursions were sponsored and designed specifically for the Veteran population. Several of the Montana CILs are also listed as Military Strong Agencies.

In addition to the counties served, the CILs also focus resources on the development and expansion of Independent Living assistance to members of the Native American community. Presently, there are twelve tribes, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, Crow, Gros Ventre, Kootenai, Little Shell Chippewa, Northern Cheyenne, Pend d'Oreille, Salish and Sioux. There are also seven federally recognized American Indian Reservations. The Little Shell Chippewa Indians received recognition in 2019 and presently working to establish tribal lands.

Numerous outreach activities occur within each CIL. Outreach includes attendance to and/or sponsorship of the IL Symposium, MYLF (My Life), MyTransitions (My Transitions) conference. Additionally, the Montana Youth Transitions website is funded by NCILS and has been developed to reach Montana youth and their families across all regions of the state. Summit and Ability have developed rich film programs to share with their respective communities. Ability Montana has developed recreational activities to foster individuals' physical health, mental health, feeling of social cohesion, and social support. LIFTT has worked diligently to host vaccination clinics in all the counties it serves. LIFTT uses these community visits as opportunities to reach out to members of each county distributing material, contact information, and knowledge regarding Independent Living services. LIFTT and NCILS have developed "mobile offices" that travel to the remote areas of the state 1 day/week to provide much needed information and services. Space is generously shared with LIFTT and NCILS, thus providing expanded service area, distribution of information, and increased connection to Independent Living specialists.

Montana is a vast state covering approximately 147,000 square miles, divided into 56 counties. Montana is the 4th largest state in the Nation and to drive east to west across the state you would travel 630 miles. Two-fifth's of the state is considered mountainous and three-fifth are part of the Great Plains.

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## 2.3 - COORDINATION

Plans for coordination of services and cooperation between programs and organizations that support community life for persons with disabilities.

SILC members are provided with information about the CILs during their orientation. Each CIL also provides an update of their activities during the quarterly SILC meetings. In addition, SILC members are encouraged to periodically visit the CIL nearest to their home. CIL directors are invited to all general SILC meetings and serve on various committees and task forces alongside SILC members and others in the community.

The SILC IL program manager serves as the liaison between the CILs, the SILC, and the DSE.

The SILC IL program manager does a site visit to each CIL at least every other year. The program manager also attends board and other meetings at the CILs when invited to do so. Along with staff from the CILs and SILC members, the program manager participates in the various task forces and committees and aids in the planning of IL events such as Legislative Day, Rally Day, IL Symposium, and other statewide activities.

The SILC program manager, with SILC input, prepares the contracts between the CILs and the DSE to distribute Part B and Montana General Fund monies.

The SILC has representation on the Montana Rehabilitation Council. This provides an avenue of mutual support for Vocational Rehabilitation and IL programs and issues. The Administrator of the DSE assists with the coordination of these various activities.

In order to expand access to the host of services that may be provided by each CIL and requested by consumers, the SILC encourages the Montana network of CILs to work together to render services, even across service area boundaries, in the most effective manner through contracts, MOU agreements, or other terms of agreement between the various CILs.

The CILs and local school districts work with MT DPHHS administering the Pre-ETS programs. Thus, an expanded number of Montana students receive exposure to job explorations, work-based learning experiences, counseling on post-secondary options, work-place readiness, and skills in self-advocacy.

Additionally, the four CILs across the state are teaming up the Money Follows the Person to locally administer this program with the goal of assisting individuals better access to home and community-based services.

## Section 3: Network of Centers

## 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

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

## 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow

Counties Served: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, Golden Valley, McCone, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Rosebud, Stillwater, Treasure, Wibaux

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have accounting procedures that conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for the Part B contracts. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, PPR reports, and/or site visits. Per 45 CFR 75.501, any CIL receiving over \$750,000 in federal funds is required to obtain and pay for their own Single Audit. The CIL must provide a copy of this audit within 30 days of completion to DETD. Independent auditor's reports are reviewed by DPHHS Audit Services, and if deemed appropriate DPHHS Audit Services monitors for follow up and corrective actions.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Administration for Community Living is responsible for this oversight.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Oversight is the responsible by the awarding agency.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have accounting procedures that conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for State awarded funds. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, PPR reports, and/or site visits.

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Oversight is the responsible by the awarding agency.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Grant awarding agency.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Big Horn (Full Services)

Carbon (Full Services)

Carter (Full Services)

Dawson (Full Services)

Fallon (Full Services)  
Garfield (Full Services)  
Golden Valley (Full Services)  
McCone (Full Services)  
Musselshell (Full Services)  
Powder River (Full Services)  
Prairie (Full Services)  
Richland (Full Services)  
Rosebud (Full Services)  
Stillwater (Full Services)  
Treasure (Full Services)  
Wibaux (Full Services)

Montana Independent Living Project, Inc. dba Ability Montana

Counties Served: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Granite, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Madison, Meagher, Park, Powell, Silver Bow, Sweet Grass, Wheatland

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for the Part B contracts. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits. Per 45 CFR 75.501, any CIL receiving \$750,000 in federal funds is required to obtain and pay for their own Single Audit. The CIL must provide a copy of this audit within 30 days of completion to DETD. Independent auditor's reports are reviewed by DPHHS Audit Services, and if deemed appropriate DPHHS Audit Services monitors for follow up and corrective actions.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Administration for Community Living is responsible for oversight.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for State awarded funds. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits.

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Beaverhead (Full Services)

Broadwater (Full Services)

Deer Lodge (Full Services)

Gallatin (Full Services)

Granite (Full Services)

Jefferson (Full Services)

Lewis and Clark (Full Services)

Madison (Full Services)

Meagher (Full Services)

Park (Full Services)

Powell (Full Services)

Silver Bow (Full Services)

Sweet Grass (Full Services)

Wheatland (Full Services)

North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.

Counties Served: Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Daniels, Fergus, Glacier, Hill, Judith Basin, Liberty, Petroleum, Phillips, Pondera, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Teton, Toole, Valley

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for the Part B contracts. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits. Per 45 CFR 75.501, any CIL receiving \$750,000 in federal funds is required to obtain and pay for their own Single Audit. The CIL must provide a copy of this audit within 30 days of completion to DETD. Independent auditor's reports are reviewed by DPHHS Audit Services, and if deemed appropriate DPHHS Audit Services monitors for follow up and corrective actions.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Administration for Community Living is responsible for oversight.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

## State Funds

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for State awarded funds. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits.

## Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

## County Services

Blaine (Full Services)

Cascade (Full Services)

Chouteau (Full Services)

Daniels (Full Services)

Fergus (Full Services)

Glacier (Full Services)

Hill (Full Services)

Judith Basin (Full Services)

Liberty (Full Services)

Petroleum (Full Services)

Phillips (Full Services)

Pondera (Full Services)

Roosevelt (Full Services)

Sheridan (Full Services)

Teton (Full Services)

Toole (Full Services)

Valley (Full Services)

Summit Independent Living Center, Inc.

Counties Served: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli, Sanders

All Sources of Funding:

Title VII Chapter 1, Part B

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and

follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for the Part B contracts. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits. Per 45 CFR 75.501, any CIL receiving \$750,000 in federal funds is required to obtain and pay for their own Single Audit. The CIL must provide a copy of this audit within 30 days of completion to DETD. Independent auditor's reports are reviewed by DPHHS Audit Services, and if deemed appropriate DPHHS Audit Services monitors for follow up and corrective actions.

Title VII Chapter 1, Part C

Oversight Process: Administration for Community Living is responsible for oversight.

Other Federal Funds - include examples (CDC, PHWF, etc.)

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

State Funds

Oversight Process: Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have to have accounting procedures that confirm to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAPP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations. The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for State awarded funds. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, and/or site visits.

Other Non-Federal Funds

Oversight Process: Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.

Oversight Entity: DSE and ACL/OILP, Other (Oversight is responsible by the awarding agency.)

SPIL Signatory: Yes

County Services

Flathead (Full Services)

Lake (Full Services)

Lincoln (Full Services)

Mineral (Full Services)

Missoula (Full Services)

Ravalli (Full Services)

Sanders (Full Services)

## 3.1 - EXISTING CENTERS

### **CIL Network**

Explain the criteria for defining the CIL network, bearing in mind that those CILs included in the network should be those eligible to sign the SPIL.

Montana is a vast state covering approximately 147,000 square miles, divided into 56 counties. Montana is the 4th largest state in the Nation and to drive east to west across the state you would

travel 630 miles. Two-fifth's of the state is considered mountainous and three-fifth are part of the Great Plains.

Presently, there are twelve tribes, Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, Crow, Gros Ventre, Kootenai, Little Shell Chippewa, Northern Cheyenne, Pend d'Oreille, Salish and Sioux. There are also seven federally recognized American Indian Reservations. The Little Shell Chippewa Indians received recognition in 2019 and presently working to establish tribal lands.

To serve these vast areas of Montana the four Centers of Independent Living have agreed to serve the state in four designated regions. Discussion and agreement occurred numerous years ago as to the counties served by each CIL. Several minor changes have occurred throughout the years to which particular CIL serves each county. Periodically this discussion occurs and changes are made if deemed appropriate by the CIL directors. Presently, there are four main offices, eight branch offices, and several mobile offices that form an IL network that cover every county in the state. These centers include Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow (LIFTT), North Central Independent Living (NCILS), Montana Independent Living Program dba Ability Montana, and Summit Independent Living Center.

The CILs, including their branch offices, provide the five core IL services along with system change advocacy, education, social change, and awareness services. All four CILs receive a mix of Part B and state general fund through contract with the State of Montana. Part C funds are dispersed to the CILs directly by the federal government. The estimated distribution of state funds for Part B and general funds are included in section 1.3 Financial Plan.

The CILs, including their branch offices, provide the five core IL services along with system change advocacy, education, social change, and awareness services. All four CILs receive a mix of Part B and state general fund through contract with the State of Montana. Part C funds are dispersed to the CILs directly by the federal government. The estimated distribution of state funds for Part B and general funds are included in section 1.3 Financial Plan. LIFTT and NCILS have teamed together to serve the "big open" in the east central part of the state with its population average of only 4 people per square mile.

## 3.2 - EXPANSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF NETWORK

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

Definition of served, unserved, and underserved.

All 56 Montana counties are included within the service area of the four existing centers. All counties are served, with the mission of each CIL to best meet the needs of the underserved. Each of Montana's four CILs will determine the best course of action to address unmet and underserved needs within its service area. This SPIL does not designate specific geographic regions of the state as underserved but rather, focuses on underserved populations: youth with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, American Indians with disabilities, and individuals living in rural and frontier areas of the state.

Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to ensure that each Center receives at least the minimum.

Minimum funding level for a Center and formula/plan for distribution of funds to bring each Center to the minimum. Exceptions must be explained with sufficient detail.

Equalization of funding for Montana CILs ensures the combined budgets of each center are the same. Equalization of funding for CILs considers the combined monies from Part B, Part C, and General Fund sources. When funding levels of Part C and/or Part B would change (increase or decrease) the change would be distributed equally between the four existing CILs. Funding from grants and other contracts are not included in the equalization calculations.

When additional Part C, Part B, or Montana General Funds become available through cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), provider rate increases or other appropriations, all four centers will receive adjustments in the amounts necessary to ensure that their combined overall budgets, consisting of funds from Part B, Part C, and the Montana General Fund, remain equal.

For example, if one center receives a relatively larger Part C cost of living adjustment (COLA), that center's General Fund or Part B funding will be adjusted so that the total funding for each center remains equal. When a decrease in funding occurs, the decrease will be applied so that the total funding for each center remains equal. In some cases, a decrease in one funding source may result in an adjustment to a different funding source. However, the total combined funding from Part B, Part C, and the Montana General Fund for each center shall always remain equal.

The minimum funding level for developing a new CIL in Montana is an additional \$750,000, inclusive of Part C, Part B, and Montana General Fund dollars. This amount takes into consideration Montana's sparsely populated geographic area and necessary travel costs, the rapid growth in its real estate costs, and necessary start-up expenses for any new business organization. Currently, all four (4) Montana CILs receive \$441,552 each.

Priorities for establishment of new CIL(s).

For the period of the October 1, 2024 thru September 30, 2027 SPIL the SILC and the CIL network have NO priority for the establishment of new CIL(s).

Existing CILs network priority is to build additional satellite offices and utilize mobile offices rather than developing a new Center for Independent Living. All 56 Montana counties are included within the service area of the four existing centers. All counties are served, with the mission of each CIL to best meet the needs of the underserved.

Action/process for distribution of funds relinquished or removed from a Center and/or if a Center closes.

If funds are relinquished or removed from a Center, or if a Center closes, the State Plan partners will determine the best strategy to continue providing services in the service area that was previously served by the former CIL. An assessment will be made to determine whether one or more of the remaining MT CILs could expand services into the vacated service area, or whether Request for Proposal (RFP) for the establishment of a new CIL located in the former CIL service area should take place. For the purposes of this 2024-2027 SPIL, the Request for Proposal process would be used only if a majority of the existing CILs agree that the establishment of a new CIL in the previously vacated service area was necessary.

Plan to build capacity of existing CILs and/or expand statewide reach by establishing branch offices and/or satellites of existing CILs.

Each of Montana's four CILs will determine the best course of action to address unmet and underserved needs within its service area. Options they will consider could include establishing new satellite offices, mobile offices, or enhancing/expanding the capacity of existing offices. This SPIL does not designate specific geographic regions of the state as underserved but rather, focuses on

underserved populations: youth with disabilities, veterans with disabilities, American Indians with disabilities, and individuals living in rural and frontier areas of the state.

There are four primary Centers of Independent Living offices, eight branch offices, and several mobile offices that form an IL network that covers every county and reservation in the state. The CILs, including their branch offices, provide the five core IL services along with system change advocacy, education, social change, and awareness services. All four CILs receive a mix of Part B and state general fund through contract with the State of Montana. Part C funds are dispersed to the CILs directly by the federal government.

Plan/formula for distribution of new funds (Part B, Part C, one-time funds, etc.)

Any additional funding would provide for expansion of services within the existing CILs. Those funds would be passed through to the four existing CILs and shared equally per the State established equalization plan.

Plan/formula for adjusting distribution of funds when cut/reduced.

If funds are cut or reduced the reduction will be done in such a way that each Center continues funding based on the equalization formula, with the result that each Center continues to receive an equal overall amount of core funding of Part C, Part B and General Fund dollars combined.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network. State the needed change(s) as concretely and succinctly as possible.

There are no plans for changes in CIL's service areas and/or funding level distribution. This SPIL does not reflect a plan to establish a new CIL, but rather to build on the existing branch office strategy for further expansion of the IL network in Montana. The SILC and CILs continue to advocate for additional funding.

Temporary Changes (if applicable) Other (if applicable)

not applicable

## Section 4: Designated State Entity

### 4.0 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

Department of Public Health and Human Services will serve as the entity in Montana designated to receive, administer, and account for funds made available to the state under Title VII, Chapter 1, Part B of the Act on behalf of the State.

### 4.1 - DSE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State under this chapter based on the plan;
2. provide administrative support services for a program under Part B, and a program under Part C in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723;

3. keep such records and afford such access to such records as the Administrator finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
4. submit such additional information or provide such assurances as the Administrator may require with respect to the programs; and
5. retain not more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for the performance of the services outlined in paragraphs (1) through (4).

## 4.2 - ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING: DSE ASSURANCES

Administrative and staffing support provided by the DSE.

Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Disability Employment and Transition acts as the pass-through agency to distribute the Part B grant funds. This grant money includes the 10% state match and excludes the 5% Part B money held by the DSE for administration. Grant Funds are contracted with each CIL using the agreed upon equalization of process described in the financial plan (Section 1.5).

All existing and any new Part B money received by the State will continue to follow the current distribution plan. The equalization of funding to all four Centers that are within the previously described network of Montana Centers. The Centers for Independent Living include: Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow, Montana Independent Living Project (MILP, dba Ability Montana), North Central Independent Living Services, Inc., and Summit Independent Living.

The SILC IL Program Manager position funding is provided by the DSE state general funds. The SILC IL program manager position is responsible for administrative staff support, coordination and hosting of SILC and related meetings, document development, and serves as the liaison between the SILC, DSE, and CILs. The program manager also provides support to SILC committees and assists with the development and management of the SPIL. The IL SILC program manager is the primary DSE staff support person, although they rely on other DSE staff members to provide support based on need and expertise.

The program manager also conducts contract compliance reviews to ensure that federal and state regulations and guidelines adhere to the Title II, Part B, state general funds, and the state match requirements.

The SILC IL program manager provides logistical support to the SILC in the development of marketing materials and strategies, promoting the SILC and SILC activities.

The SILC IL program manager develops SILC orientation materials. Additionally, the program manager forwards information regarding training opportunities and information that may be pertinent to SILC activities and interests to SILC members.

The DSE receives grant funds on behalf of the SILC and distributes them through contracts to the CILs. The program manager is responsible for developing and administering these contracts, after a review and acceptance by each CIL.

The IL program manager does a site visit to each CIL at least every other year. The program manager also attends board and other meetings at the CILs when invited to do so. Along with staff from the CILs and SILC members, the program manager participates in the various task forces and committees and aids in the planning of IL events such as Legislative Day, Rally Day, IL Symposium, and other statewide activities.

Logistical support is also provided by the IL program manager in the search for additional funding for the SILC and CILs. The SILC does not currently receive any funding directly.

## 4.3 - STATE-IMPOSED REQUIREMENTS

State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including:

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration, funding, or operation of IL programs and/or establishment, funding, and operations of the SILC
- Rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline that is beyond what would be required to comply with 45 CFR 1329
- That limits, expands, or alters requirements for the SPIL

Grant funds coming into the state must be appropriated through the legislature under the following guidelines: "MT Constitution, Article 5, Section 11, Subsections 4 and 5, which state "A general appropriation bill shall contain only appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, for interest on the public debt, and for public schools. Every other appropriation shall be made by separate bill, containing but one subject" and that "No appropriation shall be made for religious, charitable, industrial, educational, or benevolent purposes to any private individual, private association, or private corporation not under control of the state."

The SILC remains autonomous in its statutory duties and authorities. It reports these activities annually through its report to the Governor. It relies on the DSE to disburse the funds it receives through Federal Part B and State General Fund grants. The SILC has a separate line item in the DSE budget which it draws from when funds are needed for equipment, projects, and other activities within its resource plan. Additionally, by utilizing the state accounting systems for fiscal transactions, the SILC agrees to follow state rates for lodging, mileage, and meals.

## 4.4 - GRANT PROCESS and DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

Grant processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds.

Instructions: Describe the processes, policies, and procedures to be followed by the DSE in the awarding of grants of Part B funds including: (all of the following are required)

Process for soliciting proposals

Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Disability Employment and Transition acts as the pass-through agency to distribute the Part B grant funds. This grant money includes the 10% state match and excludes the 5% Part B money held by the DSE for administration. Grant Funds are contracted with each CIL using the agreed upon equalization of process described in the financial plan (Section 1.5).

All existing and any new Part B money received by the State will continue to follow the current distribution plan. The equalization of funding to all four Centers that are within the previously described network of Montana Centers. The Centers for Independent Living include: Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow, Montana Independent Living Project (MILP, dba Ability Montana), North Central Independent Living Services, Inc., and Summit Independent Living.

Grant processes, policies, and procedures follow the SPIL (Section 1.5) in awarding the Subchapter B and State General grant funds. Due to the type of contract, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services requires all four CILs to submit a line-item budget and narrative that is agreed upon by the CIL and the DSE before contract execution. Submitted Quarterly reports delineate the scope of each CILs work and expenditures for both State and Part B funds. These quarterly reports are reviewed with their budgets and invoices.

The 5% of the appropriation of the SILC resource plan Part B grant monies is earmarked to be used for administrative costs. The SILC resource plan will be handled through a separate account number within the DSE fiscal operation. The SILC chair is responsible for the appropriate use of the funds and ensuring that expenditures are not made beyond the budget. The SILC chair (or their designee) reconciles recorded expenditures with the fiscal approval of expenditures by the DSE on at least a quarterly basis. Documentation of the SILC chair's involvement and authorization is maintained by the program manager. Additionally, detailed budget reports are given at all quarterly meetings.

#### Development of format for proposals

As per Section 3.2 of the SPIL no new Centers for Independent Living are planned in Montana. The minimum funding level for developing a new CIL defined in the SPIL is an additional \$750,000 inclusive of Part C, Part B, and Montana General Fund dollars. If because of additional funding the potential for the formation of a new Center exists, a Requests for Proposal would be executed, and the responses evaluated based on the existing CIL scope of work in collaboration with the SILC and Independent Living Program manager.

#### Process for reviewing proposals and who reviewers will be

If the conditions for a Request for Proposal are met and a request is received the reviewers would include a committee comprised of the Independent Living Program manager and SILC members.

#### Process for evaluating performance and compliance of grantees

Performance and compliance of the grantees is provided by the ACL/OILP. Financial compliance is provided by the DSE.

## 4.5 - OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR PART B FUNDS

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

Under the provisions of their contracts, service providers are required to have accounting procedures that conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and follow Uniform Guidance (CFR 200) regulations.

The DSE provides the oversight and compliance requirements for the Part B contracts. These include submittal of invoices, quarterly reports, PPR reports, and/or site visits. Per 45 CFR 75.501, any CIL receiving over \$750,000 in federal funds is required to obtain and pay for their own Single Audit. The CIL must provide a copy of this audit within 30 days of completion to DETD. Independent auditor's reports are reviewed by DPHHS Audit Services, and if deemed appropriate DPHHS Audit Services monitors for follow up and corrective actions.

## 4.6 - 722 VS. 723 STATE

722 State

# Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

## 5.1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

The SILC was established by Executive Order of the governor in October 1985. It was further codified under Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 53-7-103. The Statewide Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency and is independent of the Montana state agencies. The Statewide Independent Living Council is a free-standing body whose members are appointed by the governor. The SILC has autonomy and is self-governing, is not incorporated as a 501(c)(3), and receives some administrative support from the DSE. The SILC provides an annual report to the Governor. To meet Federal and State requirements the SILC reports to the ACL and the DSE.

The SILC elects the SILC chairperson and other officers. The Executive Committee (chairman, vice-chair, and secretary) of the SILC is responsible for implementing the intentions of the SILC, which are expressed through actions taken during the regular meetings of the SILC. The Executive Committee shall have the authority of the SILC in the management of the business of the SILC between meetings of the SILC, subject to the by-laws established by the SILC.

## 5.2 - SILC RESOURCE PLAN

Resources (including necessary and sufficient funding, staff/administrative support, and in-kind), by funding source and amount, for SILC to fulfill all duties and authorities.

Funding sources may include "Innovation and Expansion (IandE) funds authorized by 29 U.S.C. 721(a)(18); Independent Living Part B funds; State matching funds; [state allotments of Vocational Rehabilitation funding;] other public funds (such as Social Security reimbursement funds); and private sources."

To ensure the capacity of the SILC to fulfill all the duties and selected authorities, the SILC requires staff and support through working committees. The council requires the assistance of one full-time staff: IL Program Manager. The Program Manager works for the SILC and takes direction of the SILC. Additionally, the Program Manager works with the various committees of the SILC to achieve SPIL goals. Amongst the various duties, the Program Manager prepares the agenda and materials with the SILC chair for the full council meetings on a quarterly basis. The Program Manager is in the Central Office of the DSE. In-kind assistance is provided to the Program Manager for technology, clerical, and other state supports.

The SILC has no directly hired staff but benefits from the efforts of the DSE program manager and other support provided through state general funds assigned to the DSE for administration expenses

of Montana's IL program. While the SILC resource plan seems low, a large portion of the "other SPIL activities" budget is the program manager salary and fringe benefits. A significant amount of the program manager's time is dedicated to activities requested by the SILC such as: meeting arrangements, correspondence preparation, liaison with other agencies, membership development, boards, councils, and IL outreach activities, etc.

Additionally, the Program Manager plans and/or supports the Executive committee, Membership committee, SPIL Evaluation and Writing committee, Policy and Procedure committee, Consumer Satisfaction Survey and Town Hall meetings.

The Montana SILC utilizes the efforts of the various SILC Committees for completing of tasks. The Membership Committee is crucial to the stabilization of the SILC to stay in compliance. Other committee such as SPIL Evaluation and Writing Committee are comprised of SILC Members, CIL Directors, DSE, and other community volunteers.

The Montana SILC exercises the authority to develop Ad Hoc Committees that address specific issues that arise. These Ad Hoc committees are comprised of SILC members, CIL Staff, and people with disabilities from the public.

The Montana SILC partners with other groups and organizations to achieve the goals of the SPIL.

The budgeted amounts for years 1, 2, and 3 are reflected in the Financial Plan Tables in Sec. 1.5 above.

The following is the budget for each of the three years of the SPIL:

Meeting expense: \$2300.00

Consulting: \$800.00

Supplies/Education Training: \$ 1,000.00

Communications/Printing and Publications: \$2,200.00

Travel: \$ 11,000.00

Honorariums: \$4,000.00

Other \$523.00

Total: \$21,823.00

During the second and third year of the SPIL, the total budget amounts will be the same as the first year.

Innovation and Expansion Act funds will provide \$5000.00/year for the planning and implementation of the Independent Living Symposium.

The grant and general funds supporting the SILC resource plan will be handled through a separate account number within the DSE fiscal operation. While approval within the fiscal systems is provided by DSE personnel, the SILC and specifically the SILC chair or chair's designee are consulted and provide guidance on expenditures. Documentation of the SILC chair's involvement and authorization is maintained by the program manager. The SILC chair or their designee reconciles recorded expenditures with the approval of expenditures by the DSE on at least a quarterly basis. The SILC chair is responsible for the appropriate use of the funds and ensuring that expenditures are not made beyond the budget for SILC resources. Likewise, detailed budget reports are given at all quarterly meetings.

Accessing the support of the DSE fiscal services to support the SILC resource plan, the SILC accepts the state rates for mileage, meals, lodging and council member reimbursement.

All resources for the SILC resource plan come from Part B funds or state general funds. Since the state legislature only meets every two years, it is only possible to project budget allocations for two years. The state matching funds have been approved for the first year of the plan. The other funds are expected federal allocations.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The resource plan was developed using funds made available through State General Fund and Federal Part B grants. It was developed early in the SILC's establishment through consultation between the SILC Members, CIL Directors and the DSE. Minor adjustments to the disbursement of the funds have been made over the years but no significant changes to the Resource Plan have taken place. Total funds (Part C and B and State General Funds) are equalized and distributed to the CILs.

Process for disbursement of funds to facilitate effective operations of SILC.

The Department of Employment and Transitions acts as the DSE for the SILC. Disbursement of funds uses the pass-through model. All but 5% of the Part B and matching 10% State grant money is distributed upon invoice submittal to the CILs. The remaining 5% is set aside for SILC business and is used to pay conference attendance, conference facilitation, travel, honorariums, outreach, and per-diem. Expenses are paid through the DSE fiscal operations at the request of the SILC Chair upon Council approval.

Justification if more than 30% of the Part B appropriation is to be used for the SILC Resource Plan.

not applicable

## 5.3 - MAINTENANCE OF SILC

How State will maintain the SILC over the course of the SPIL.

Instructions: Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Indicate who appoints members to the SILC, how the State ensures that the SILC composition and qualification requirements are met, how the chair is selected, how term limits are maintained, and how SILC vacancies are filled. Describe how the specific SILC-staffing requirements listed in the SPIL Instrument will be addressed. Concisely describe or cite relevant written policies, procedures, by-laws, technical assistance, and monitoring activities, or other practices.

Describe how the State will ensure that: (all of the following are required)

The SILC is established and operating

The SILC was created under an executive order in October of 1985. The Montana code, annotated in 2023, reiterated General Vocational Rehabilitation needs to cooperate with the Federal Government to carry out the purposes of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 53-7-103).

Appointments are made in a timely manner to keep the SILC in compliance with the Act

The State Office of Boards and Appointments oversees the appointment process. Applications are sent to this office, which holds them until the SILC sends its recommendations to this office. Once these recommendations are received in the Office of Boards and Councils a list of applicants are forwarded to the Governor. The Governor generally makes appointments as needed. As soon as the approval letter is received by the SILC the new appointees are welcomed into the council and begin participating in SILC activities.

The SILC is organized in a way to ensure it is not part of any state agency

The Membership Committee makes recommendations to the SILC to fill upcoming or existing vacancies on the SILC based on a review of SILC applications that focuses on federal requirements for SILC membership.

The SILC approves a list of candidates for appointment to the SILC. The SILC approved list of candidates is forwarded to the Governor's office with a request to fill upcoming or existing vacancies on the SILC.

At all times, the Governor has open applications for all state councils and boards on the Montana website, Governor's Boards and Appointments ([https://governor.mt.gov/boards\\_appointments/](https://governor.mt.gov/boards_appointments/)). The Governor may receive applications outside of the SILC review process through this source or other activities of his/her choosing. However, the Governor's office staff members are kept aware of the requirements for serving on the SILC and requirements related to maintaining a majority of members who have a disability who are not employed by a CIL or state agency and other membership requirements.

The Governor appoints candidates to fill upcoming or existing vacancies and the Governor's office sends out appointment letters.

The SILC has the autonomy necessary to fulfill its duties and authorities, including “[working] with CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities, . . . conducting resource development, and performing such other functions . . . as the [SILC] determines to be appropriate

The SILC remains autonomous in its statutory duties and authorities. It reports these activities annually through its report to the Governor. It relies on the DSE to disburse the funds it receives through Federal Part B and State General Fund grants. The SILC has a separate line item in the DSE budget which it draws from when funds are needed for equipment, projects, and other activities within its resource plan.

Necessary and sufficient resources are provided for the SILC Resource Plan to ensure the SILC has the capacity to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities

The SILC does not have hired staff. The SILC utilizes DSE staff assigned to assist the SILC. The SILC is involved with the evaluation, hiring and supervision of the DSE program manager, who is the primary staff person assigned to assist the SILC. The chairperson of the SILC is consulted in developing the evaluation of the DSE program manager and will note if there are deficiencies in the program manager's performance. The current DSE supervisor of the IL program manager is appointed by/or is the Administrator of the Disability Employment and Transitions Division. This individual will often participate in SILC meetings and other SILC related activities. According to the SILC bylaws, no duties are assigned to the DSE personnel made available by the DSE or any other State agency or office that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

# Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

## 6.1 - DESIGNATED STATE ENTITY

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Authorized representative of the DSE Chanda Hermanson. Title: Director-Disability Employment and Transitions Division.

## 6.2 - STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (SILC)

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 Montana Statewide Independent Living Council.

## 6.3 - CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CILS)

The Centers for Independent Living (CILs) eligible to sign the SPIL, a minimum of 51% whom must sign prior to submission, are:

Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow

Montana Independent Living Project, Inc. dba Ability Montana

North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.

Summit Independent Living Center, Inc.

### 6.4.A

The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living.

Yes

### 6.4.B

The SILC and CILs may legally carryout each provision of the SPIL.

Yes

## 6.4.C

State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL.

Yes

# Section 7: DSE Assurances

## DSE ASSURANCES

Chanda Hermanson acting on behalf of the DSE Department of Public Health and Human Services located at:

Street: 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 4C

City: Helena

State: MT

Zip Code: 59601

## 7.1

The DSE acknowledges its role on behalf of the State, as the fiscal intermediary to receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State to support Independent Living Services in the State based on the plan;

## 7.2

The DSE will assure that the agency keeps appropriate records, in accordance with federal and state law, and provides access to records by the federal funding agency upon request;

## 7.3

The DSE will not retain more than 5 percent of the funds received by the State for any fiscal year under Part B for administrative expenses;

## 7.4

The DSE assures that the SILC is established as an autonomous entity within the State as required in 45 CFR 1329.14;

## 7.5

The DSE will not interfere with the business or operations of the SILC that include but are not limited to:

1. Expenditure of federal funds
2. Meeting schedules and agendas

3. SILC board business
4. Voting actions of the SILC board
5. Personnel actions
6. Allowable travel
7. Trainings

## 7.6

The DSE will abide by SILC determination of whether the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff:

1. If the SILC informs the DSE that the SILC wants to utilize DSE staff, the DSE assures that management of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC is the sole responsibility of the SILC in accordance with Sec. 705(e)(3) of the Act (Sec. 705(e)(3), 29 U.S.C. 796d(e)(3)).

## 7.7

The DSE will fully cooperate with the SILC in the nomination and appointment process for the SILC in the State;

## 7.8

The DSE shall make timely and prompt payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs:

1. When the reimbursement method is used, the DSE must make a payment within 30 calendar days after receipt of the billing, unless the agency or pass-through entity reasonably believes the request to be improper;
2. When necessary, the DSE will advance payments to Part B funded SILCs and CILs to cover its estimated disbursement needs for an initial period generally geared to the mutually agreed upon disbursing cycle; and
3. The DSE will accept requests for advance payments and reimbursements at least monthly when electronic fund transfers are not used, and as often as necessary when electronic fund transfers are used, in accordance with the provisions of the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (15 U.S.C. 1693-1693r).

## DSE SIGNATURE SECTION

Chanda Hermanson

Name of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Disability Employment and Transitions Administrator

Title of DSE Director/Authorized Representative

Chanda Hermanson

Electronic Signature

06/12/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

## Section 8: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Assurances and Indicators of Minimum Compliance

### 8.1 - SILC ASSURANCES

Scott Williamson acting on behalf of the SILC Montana Statewide Independent Living Council located at:

Street: 201 1st St. South

City: Great Falls

State: MT

Zip Code: 59405

45 CFR 1329.14 assures that:

1. The SILC regularly (not less than annually) provides the appointing authority recommendations for eligible appointments;
2. The SILC is composed of the requisite members set forth in the Act;
3. The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;
4. The SILC is not established as an entity within a State agency in accordance with 45 CFR Sec. 1329.14(b);
5. The SILC will make the determination of whether it wants to utilize DSE staff to carry out the functions of the SILC;
  - a. The SILC must inform the DSE if it chooses to utilize DSE staff;
  - b. The SILC assumes management and responsibility of such staff with regard to activities and functions performed for the SILC in accordance with the Act.
6. The SILC shall ensure all program activities are accessible to people with disabilities;
7. The State Plan shall provide assurances that the designated State entity, any other agency, office, or entity of the State will not interfere with operations of the SILC, except as provided by law and regulation and;
8. The SILC actively consults with unserved and underserved populations in urban and rural areas that include, indigenous populations as appropriate for State Plan development as described in Sec. 713(b)(7) the Act regarding Authorized Uses of Funds.

### 8.2 - INDICATORS OF MINIMUM COMPLIANCE

Indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILC) as required by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 706(b), 29 U.S.C. Sec 796d-1(b)), as amended and supported by 45 CFR 1329.14-1329.16; and Assurances for Designated State Entities (DSE) as permitted by Section 704(c)(4) of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. Sec. 796c(c)(4)), as amended.

(a) STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL INDICATORS -

1. SILC written policies and procedures must include:
  - a. A method for recruiting members, reviewing applications, and regularly providing recommendations for eligible appointments to the appointing authority;
  - b. A method for identifying and resolving actual or potential disputes and conflicts of interest that are in compliance with State and federal law;
  - c. A process to hold public meetings and meet regularly as prescribed in 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - d. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
  - e. A process and timelines for advance notice to the public of SILC meetings in compliance with State and federal law and 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(3);
    - i. "Executive Session" meetings should be rare and only take place to discuss confidential SILC issues such as but not limited to staffing.
    - ii. Agendas for "Executive Session" meetings must be made available to the public, although personal identifiable information regarding SILC staff shall not be included;
  - f. A process and timelines for the public to request reasonable accommodations to participate during a public Council meeting;
  - g. A method for developing, seeking and incorporating public input into, monitoring, reviewing and evaluating implementation of the State Plan as required in 45 CFR 1329.17; and
  - h. A process to verify centers for independent living are eligible to sign the State Plan in compliance with 45 CFR 1329.17(d)(2)(iii).
2. The SILC maintains regular communication with the appointing authority to ensure efficiency and timeliness of the appointment process.
3. The SILC maintains individual training plans for members that adhere to the SILC Training and Technical Assistance Center's SILC training curriculum.
4. The SILC receives public input into the development of the State Plan for Independent Living in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.17(f) ensuring:
  - a. Adequate documentation of the State Plan development process, including but not limited to, a written process setting forth how input will be gathered from the state's centers for independent living and individuals with disabilities throughout the state, and the process for how the information collected is considered.
  - b. All meetings regarding State Plan development and review are open to the public and provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i)-(ii);

- c. Meetings seeking public input regarding the State Plan provides advance notice of such meetings in accordance with existing State and federal laws, and 45 CFR 1329.17(f)(2)(i);
  - d. Public meeting locations, where public input is being taken, are accessible to all people with disabilities, including, but not limited to:
    - i. proximity to public transportation,
    - ii. physical accessibility, and
    - iii. effective communication and accommodations that include auxiliary aids and services, necessary to make the meeting accessible to all people with disabilities.
  - e. Materials available electronically must be 508 compliant and, upon request, available in alternative and accessible format including other commonly spoken languages.
- 5. The SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates the State Plan in accordance with 45 CFR 1329.15(a)(2) ensuring:
  - a. Timely identification of revisions needed due to any material change in State law, state organization, policy or agency operations that affect the administration of the State Plan approved by the Administration for Community Living.
- 6. The SILC State Plan resource plan includes:
  - a. Sufficient funds received from:
    - i. Title VII, Part B funds;
    - ii. If the resource plan includes Title VII, Part B funds, the State Plan provides justification of the percentage of Part B funds to be used if the percentage exceeds 30 percent of Title VII, Part B funds received by the State;
    - iii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
    - iv. Other public and private sources.
  - b. The funds needed to support:
    - i. Staff/personnel;
    - ii. Operating expenses;
    - iii. Council compensation and expenses;
    - iv. Meeting expenses including meeting space, alternate formats, interpreters, and other accommodations;
    - v. Resources to attend and/or secure training and conferences for staff and council members and;
    - vi. Other costs as appropriate.

## SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

The signature below indicates the SILC's agreement to comply with the aforementioned assurances and indicators:

Scott Williamson

Name of SILC Chair

Scott Williamson

Electronic Signature

05/07/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

## Section 9: Signatures

### SIGNATURES

The signatures below are of the SILC chairperson and at least 51 percent of the directors of the centers for independent living listed in section 6.3. These signatures indicate that the Montana Statewide Independent Living Council and the centers for independent living in the state agree with and intend to fully implement this SPIL's content. These signatures also indicate that this SPIL is complete and ready for submission to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The effective date of this SPIL is 10/01/2024

#### SILC SIGNATURE SECTION

Scott Williamson

Name of SILC Chair

Scott Williamson

Electronic Signature

05/07/2024

Date

I understand that this constitutes a legal signature

#### CIL SIGNATURE SECTION

Montana Independent Living Project, Inc. dba Ability Montana

Name of Center for Independent Living

Scott Birkenbuel

|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name of CIL Director<br>Scott Birkenbuel<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/17/2024<br>Date                                                                                                         |
| Summit Independent Living Center, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Tami Hoar<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Tami Hoar<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/13/2024<br>Date                |
| North Central Independent Living Services, Inc.<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Tom Osborn<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Tom Osborn<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/12/2024<br>Date     |
| Living Independently for Today and Tomorrow<br>Name of Center for Independent Living<br>Carlos Ramalho<br>Name of CIL Director<br>Carlos Ramalho<br>Electronic Signature<br>06/12/2024<br>Date |