Proposed Amendments

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Florida for 2017-2019

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State: Florida
Agency: Florida Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Plan for: 2017-2019
Submitted in fiscal year: 2016

View grant 90IS0008-01 in the Grant Award screen.
Part I: Assurances

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs.

Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind.

Florida Department of Education Division of Blind Services

1.3 The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Act and is authorized to perform the functions outlined in section 705(c) of the Act in the State.

Florida Independent Living Council, Inc.

1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL.

1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL.

1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is Aleisa McKinlay, Director and Robert Doyle, Director.

Section 2: SPIL Development

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

- The provision of State independent living services;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6). Yes

Section 9: Signatures

As the authorized signatories, we will sign, date and retain in the files of the state agency(ies) and the Statewide Independent Living Council the Part I: Assurances, 1-8, and the separate Certification of Lobbying forms ED-80-0013 (available in MS Word and PDF formats) for the state independent living program (Part B) and the centers for independent living program (Part C).

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2016.

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson
Name John T. Davis
Title President
Signed? Yes
Date signed 06/17/2016

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director
Name Aleisa McKinlay
Title Director
Signed? Yes
Date signed 06/30/2016

Section 9: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind
Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind? Yes/No NA
Name Robert Doyle
Title Director
Signed? Yes
Date signed 06/27/2016

Commented [MPN3]: References to DBS as DSE/DSU deleted.
Commented [MPN4]: References to DBS as DSE/DSU deleted.
Partner with other organizations for office space or meeting space or open and support an office in an underserved area to coordinate work with consumers and others in that area.

Recruit Board and staff members from identified underserved communities.

Recruit and develop leadership by youth and other people with disabilities representing underserved groups within the Center.

Track veteran status for consumers served.

Develop services for veterans, people living in healthcare facilities and people with significant mental/emotional disability, especially when funding is available for providing those services.

Conduct outreach activities in nursing homes or other institutions serving individuals with significant disabilities.

At the state level, FILC will identify best outreach strategies within the IL community state-wide and nationally and provide training and technical assistance to centers with respect to the various strategies and practices in identifying underserved groups and planning to meet their needs.

The FILC has made a commitment to diversity. We show this commitment by our efforts to recruit individuals from all areas of the State, with all types of disabilities and from all significant minority populations within the State and support them for membership on the council and staff. We support these through nomination and recommendation to the governor for FILC representatives.

Provision of materials in alternate formats, and effort to accomplish activities in an accessible setting that meet standards of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended are examples of how the FILC and CILs make effort to reach and serve individuals with significant disabilities that remain unserved or underserved in our State.

1.3 Financial Plan

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

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.
### Year 1 - 2017 Approximate funding amounts and uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>SILC resource plan</th>
<th>IL services</th>
<th>General CIL operations</th>
<th>Other SPIL activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title VII Funds</td>
<td>30,080</td>
<td>176,943</td>
<td>840,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>365,723</td>
<td>389,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C</td>
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<td>389,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)</td>
<td>3,657,230</td>
<td>395,822</td>
<td>96,971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Federal funds - other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,472,193</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Federal funds - State funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>123,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Federal funds - Other</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>395,822</td>
<td>176,943</td>
<td>96,971</td>
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### Year 2 - 2018 Approximate funding amounts and uses

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<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>SILC resource plan</th>
<th>IL services</th>
<th>General CIL operations</th>
<th>Other SPIL activities</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>365,723</td>
<td>389,875</td>
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<td>389,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)</td>
<td>3,657,230</td>
<td>395,822</td>
<td>96,971</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commented [MPNS]:** For tables covering 2017, 2018, 2019.
1. Figures for Part C and B placed in the wrong cell – now corrected.
2. Part B money from DBS reallocated to Florida’s CILs. $84,000 + $176,943 + $30,080 = $1,047,023
Year 3 - 2019

Approximate funding amounts and uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources</th>
<th>SILC resource plan</th>
<th>IL services</th>
<th>General CIL operations</th>
<th>Other SPIL activities</th>
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<td>Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Other Federal funds - other</td>
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<td>Non-Federal funds - State funds</td>
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<td>Non-Federal funds - Other</td>
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<td>176943</td>
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</table>

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

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

For 2016-17, Florida will maximize its funding resources to support the State Plan for Independent Living by using the following resources:

For 2016-17, the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. will be funded from two sources—Title I, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Innovation and Expansion)—and from Title VII, Part B funds provided by the Division of Blind Services. The funds are to be used to support the

Commented [MPN6]: Reallocation of DBS Part B to Florida CILs.
Council duties as outlined in Section 705, Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and to complete the assigned State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

For 2016-17, Centers for Independent Living will be funded from four sources - These include Title VII, Part B; Title VII, Part C; Social Security Reimbursements; and state General Revenue. Funds provided to the Centers through the Memorandums of Agreement may be used to complete their assigned State Plan for Independent Living Objectives. The Centers have the flexibility to determine how they will spend Part C, Part B and other sources of funding to carry out State Plan for Independent Living objectives.

Funding for future years will be based on documentation of need, the availability of Social Security reimbursements, and/or state and federal appropriations.

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

Florida successfully requested and received, state General Revenue funds to support services delivered by the Centers for Independent Living. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation funds state independent living program staff members from program income. The State Plan for Independent Living objectives have been assigned to the Designated State Entity, the Council and Centers so that each party understands its responsibilities.

The Council: Complete requirements outlined in Section 705, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and to achieve assigned objectives in the State Plan for Independent Living.

Council: Innovation and Expansion $395,822
Council: Part B from Blind Services (17 percent) $30,080
Total: $395,822

Centers for Independent Living: To expand services as outlined in Part C of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended and to achieve the assigned objectives in the State Plan for Independent Living.

State General Revenue $1,232,004
Social Security Reimbursements $3,472,193 (if available)
Title VII Part B $840,000
Total State Agreements with CILs $5,883,150

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

NA
Part II: Narrative: Section 5 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan

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

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

For more information click the icon.

The Division of Blind Services, through a Cooperative Agreement with the State Independent Living Council, Inc. and Vocational Rehabilitation arrange for 17 percent of their Part B dollars to be diverted to Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the functions of the State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the State Independent Living Council:

The Division of Blind Services, through a Cooperative Agreement with the State Independent Living Council, Inc. and Vocational Rehabilitation arrange for 17 percent of their Part B dollars to be diverted to Vocational Rehabilitation to assist the functions of the State Independent Living Council, Inc.

Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the State Independent Living Council:

The administrative offices for Council staff members are independent of both the Designated State Entity and all other state agencies, and the Council continues to strive for full autonomy in meeting its federal mandates. Funding is dispersed through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation through the Florida Department of Education.

The State Independent Living Council, in conjunction with the DSEs, prepares a Resource Plan specifying the resources, including staff and personnel, rent, supplies, telephone expenses, travel, and other expenses that will be necessary to carry out the functions of the Council during the term of the State Plan for Independent Living. The Council will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the Council Resource Plan.

No conditions or requirements are included in the Council Resource Plan that will compromise the independence of the Council.
While assisting the State Independent Living Council in carrying out its duties under the State Plan for Independent Living, staff and other personnel assigned to the Council under the Council Resource Plan will not be assigned duties by the Designated State Entity or any other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

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

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

All requirements of the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc., with regard to expectations and expenditure of funds will be outlined in the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Council is responsible for the proper expenditure of funds under this resource plan. The funds will be used to carry out the State Plan for Independent Living, funding staff, meeting and travel expenses and other costs associated with Council operations, including its office expenses.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

The Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the Designated State Entity, and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies.

The State Independent Living Council and the Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship ensuring the autonomy of the State Independent Living Council. This relationship is formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services and the Council.

- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

The Council resource plan is based on funds that are generally available from the DSEs on an annual basis.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The Council is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) corporation, established in 1999 pursuant to Chapter 413, Florida Statutes. The State Independent Living Council is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the Designated State Entity, and is independent of the Designated State Entity and all other State agencies. The State Independent Living Council and the
Designated State Entity work together to manage their contractual relationship ensuring the autonomy of the State Independent Living Council. This relationship is formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services and the Council.

5.3 Appointment and Composition

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

Florida’s Governor appoints members to the Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. Potential nominees for the Council must complete an application that is reviewed by the Nominating Committee.

The recruitment of members is accomplished through the following mechanisms:

- The Council Executive Director informs the Executive Committee of up-coming/current openings.
- The Executive Committee then informs the Full Council of up-coming/current openings.
- The Full Council is then requested to solicit applications to various organizations while attending agency meetings, sitting on boards, attending conferences.
- The Council website includes the gubernatorial appointment forms and request for submission of applications.
- The announcement of vacancies is also advertised through the Governor’s website (www.myflorida.com).
- Application forms request self-identification from potential applicants.

The Council has several mechanisms for assuring that members are knowledgeable about Centers and independent living services:

1. Nominees for membership on the Council complete application forms issued by the Governor’s office. The candidates are provided with ample opportunities to discuss their qualifications for serving on the Council, including their prior experience with Centers, independent living services and disability-related issues in general.

2. Applications are reviewed in detail by the Council’s Nominating Committee members and staff members.
Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1</th>
<th>Method that will be used to evaluate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Health, Wellness and Safety Outreach</strong></td>
<td>The Florida Independent Living Council, Inc. will evaluate the progress of the implementation of the 2014-2017 State Plan for Independent Living in the following manner:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Council, in conjunction with the DSE, will continue to collect the annual 704 Reports and performance reports submitted by the Centers for Independent Living to the DSE, aggregate the data and report the progress of specific State Plan Goals and Objectives to the Evaluation Committee and to the full Council at its meetings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Council will continue to gather reports of activities it participates in related to a specific State Plan Goal/Objective or Strategy. These will be compiled by the Evaluation Committee and maintained by the Council with reports generated at least annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- The Council Executive Director will provide the DSE with monthly invoices and scheduled deliverables and summarize the monitoring, review, and evaluation of the implementation of the State Plan, according to the Memorandum of Agreement between the DSE and the Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infrastructure and Resource Development</strong></td>
<td>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth Health, Wellness and Safety</strong></td>
<td>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled by the Council for review by the Evaluation Committee. Progress will be monitored, and achievements, barriers and other pertinent information will be shared with all parties to the plan for appropriate action (advocacy, collaboration, coordination of services, etc.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outreach</strong></td>
<td>During each quarter of the plan, the CILs will report on data and activities related to the goal, objectives and strategies. The information will be compiled</td>
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</tbody>
</table>