

**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: Massachusetts

**FISCAL YEARS 2025-2027
Effective Date: October 1, 2024**

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Massachusetts Independent Living Network and this State Plan for Independent Living is to support individuals with disabilities to live in the community of their choice. In keeping with that mission, this SPIL focuses on four key goals that the Independent Living Community identified as being essential to this mission:

1. Increase access to available, affordable, accessible housing across Massachusetts
2. Increase the capacity of Independent Living Center (ILCs) to engage in transportation advocacy in MA
3. Increase ILC services to underserved populations
4. Increase support for ILCs in MA

These goals will be met through a series of objectives. The objectives for increasing affordable housing focus on efforts to increase both the availability of housing vouchers and accessible housing. The objectives for increasing the capacity of ILCs to engage in transportation advocacy will focus on efforts to increase number of persons with disabilities as voting members on Regional Transit Authority boards and on the formation of a new cross-ILC committee working on accessible transportation.

This SPIL also addresses the need to increase services to underserved populations of people with disabilities through staff training, and the development of outreach plans specific to the underserved populations in each ILC's service area. Finally, to increase support for ILCs will participate in a coordinated grassroots advocacy effort to increase ILC funding.

All the objectives, indicators, activities, and evaluation for the above goals are addressed in Section 1.

Section 2 includes a chart of services provided by Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts. Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts collaborate extensively with the DSE, and other organizations that support and provide services to individuals with disabilities and with each other. This section includes a description of statewide collaborations and outreach plans.

All of Massachusetts's 351 cities and towns are served through 10 Centers for Independent Living. This network is described in detail in Section 3. This section also includes minimum funding levels for Centers for Independent Living and an explanation of the distribution of funds.

The Designated State Entity in Massachusetts is the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission. Massachusetts is a 723 State. Section 4 describes the oversight of Subchapter B, Subchapter C and State funding.

Section 5 describes the Statewide Independent Living Council. Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council is an independent, Governor-appointed council.

Section 6 provides legal certifications for the identified entities involved with authorities and

responsibilities of the SPIL.

Section 7 identifies the DSE assurances and expresses the administrative role and responsibilities of the DSE.

Section 8 provides the SILC Assurances and Indicators of minimum compliance, detailing the functions, authorities, and requirements for operating as a SILC.

Section 9 includes signatures of the SILC Chairperson, CIL Directors, and the Commissioner of the DSE agreeing to the content of this plan.

Section 1: Goals, Objectives, and Activities

1.1 Mission

Mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL

The mission of the Massachusetts Independent Living Network and this SPIL is to support the ability of individuals with disabilities to live in the community of their choice.

1.2 Goals

Goals of the IL Network for the three-year period of the plan.

1. Increase access to available, affordable, accessible housing across Massachusetts
2. Increase the capacity of ILCs to engage in transportation advocacy in MA
3. Increase ILC services to underserved populations
4. Increase support for Independent Living Centers in MA

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.

- 1.1 Increase in the number of available accessible, affordable apartments
- 1.2 Increase in ILC consumers' access to available affordable apartments
- 1.3 Architectural Access Board regulations are updated.
- 2.1 Increase in the number of persons with disabilities as voting members on Regional Transit Authority boards
- 2.2 ILCs have established a committee to advance accessible, affordable transportation goals including:
 - Increasing accessible rideshare, cab services or other on-demand transportation.
 - Increasing the number of Regional Transportation Authorities that have accessible communication and notification systems
 - Increasing RTA Funding
- 3.1 Underserved people with disabilities have access to Independent Living services
- 4.1 ILCs have increased funding to serve consumers

Indicators

- 1.1 Number of accessible, affordable units (those where rent is based on income) as tracked by the Housing Navigator increases. Number of vouchers for persons with disabilities increases.
- 1.2 5% increase over 3 years in the number of IL consumers meeting their housing goals, per ILC database (WILD/MiCIL)
- 1.3 5% increase over 3 years in the number of IL consumers meeting their nursing home transition goals, per 704 report.
- 1.4 Architectural Access Board regulation updates are adopted by the State of Massachusetts
- 2.1 Number of ILC consumers serving as voting members on RTA Boards and number of ILC consumers ready to serve on RTA Boards when seats become available
- 2.2 Committee for ILCs engaged in accessible transportation is regularly meeting
- 3.1 100% of ILCs have an outreach plan focused on unserved and underserved consumers in their service area
- 3.2 Increase in training to ILC staff and Board focused on underserved populations, particularly BIPOC populations, including Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) training
- 4.1 Increase state funding for independent living centers by \$5 million
- 4.2 Increase funding for ILC nursing home transition work

Activities

- 1.1 Centers for Independent Living will participate in coordinated grassroots advocacy efforts that support increases in housing vouchers, updating Architectural Access Board Regulations and increases in accessible, affordable housing units.
- 1.2 ILCs will provide input in the MA Qualified Allocation Plan, which guides Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program
- 1.3 ILCs will collaborate with State and local partners to build systems to better connect ILC consumers with housing
- 2.1 Centers for Independent Living will participate in advisory groups for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs).
- 2.2 Each ILC will identify, recruit, and support at least one rider in their area with personal experience to take the next available seat on RTA Advisory Boards and other transportation advisory groups.
- 2.3 Centers for Independent Living will collaborate across the state in advocacy and information sharing to advance accessible transportation goals listed in goal
- 3.1 ILCs draft outreach plans focusing on underserved and unserved populations in their service areas
- 3.2 SILC and ILCs conduct regular training for staff and Boards on serving unserved and underserved populations, including Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion (DEAI) training
- 4.1 Centers for Independent Living will participate in a coordinated grassroots advocacy effort to increase ILC funding

1.4 Evaluation

Methods and processes the SILC will use to evaluate the effectiveness of the SPIL including timelines and evaluation of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities.

To facilitate the SILC's duty to monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the state plan the Independent Living Network of Massachusetts agrees on the following methods to review progress toward the goals and objectives in sections 1.2 and 1.3 above:

1. The existing cross-ILC Housing Working Group will provide quarterly updates to the SPIL Committee
2. The newly-formed cross-ILC Transportation Advocacy committee will provide quarterly updates to the SPIL Committee
3. At least twice annually, ILC Executive Directors will review the status of the goal to increase services to underserved people with disabilities and report to the SPIL Committee
4. ILC Executive Directors will monitor the Independent Living line item and report changes to the SPIL Committee.

The SPIL Committee will track the progress of each objective by reviewing the above reports as well as data gathered from the CIL Program Performance Report (PPR), information from community surveys, and the Consumer Satisfaction Surveys. The SPIL Committee will report annually to the SILC body on the performance of the goals.

The objectives and activities in this SPIL rely on grassroots and systems advocacy. Because of this, movement toward the objectives may take the full three years before change is seen. The SPIL working groups will also be charged with evaluating and making recommendations regarding the need for adjustment in activities or to the objectives in the SPIL.

The Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living collaborate on efforts to collect consumer satisfaction data. ILCs distribute a consumer satisfaction survey annually and provide the data to the SILC. The SILC aggregates the data and provides a statewide consumer satisfaction report to the Centers for Independent Living and SILC members. This information serves as one data point in the evaluation of statewide Independent Living services.

Timeline	Goals	Objectives	Data to be collected	Data Collection Method	Organization Primarily responsible for data collection
Throughout 3 year period	Increase available, affordable, accessible housing across Massachusetts	Increase in the number of available accessible, affordable apartments	Number of accessible units tracked by Housing Navigator	Housing Navigator data	CILs/ SILC
Throughout 3 year period	Same as above	Same as above	Change in status of Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (AAB) Regulations	State notifications	CILs
Throughout 3 year period	Same as above	Increase in ILC consumers' access to available affordable apartments	The number of IL consumers meeting their housing and nursing home transition goals	CIL consumer database (WILD or MICIL) and 704 report	CILs/ SILC
Throughout 3 year period	Increase the capacity of ILCs to engage in transportation advocacy in MA	Increase in the number of persons with disabilities as voting members on Regional Transit Authority boards	Number of individuals with disabilities that are voting members of RTA boards and number of individuals identified by ILCs to serve on RTA boards when spots become available	Baseline survey Survey and community monitoring	CILs/SILC

Throughout 3 year period	Same as above	ILCs have established a committee to advance accessible, affordable transportation goals	Number of ILCs participating in transportation committee	Transportation committee reports to the SPIL Committee	CILs/SILC
Throughout 3 year period	Increase ILC services to underserved populations	Underserved people with disabilities have access to Independent Living services	Outreach plan for each CIL Trainings completed by each CIL SILC training	Baseline survey Survey and community monitoring	CILs/SILC
Throughout 3 year period	Increase support for Independent Living Centers in MA	ILCs have increased funding to serve consumers	Change in status of ILC funding line item (4120-0200)	State notifications	CILs

1.5 Financial Plan

Sources, uses of, and efforts to coordinate funding to be used to accomplish the 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					
Sources	Projected Funding Amounts and Uses				
	SILC Resource Plan	IL Services	General CIL Operations	Other SPIL Activities	Retained by DSE for Administrative costs (applies only to Part B funding)
Title VII Funds					
Chapter 1, Part B	\$112,696.20	\$187,950.50	\$60,000	\$6,000	\$ 18,845.30
Chapter 1, Part C			\$1,731,410		
Other Federal Funds					

Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion – shall not be 0\$)	TBD				
Social Security Reimbursement					
Non-Federal Funds					
State Funds	\$43,034.80		8,000,000		
Other					

Financial Plan Narrative:

In Massachusetts the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission serves as the Designated State Entity and is responsible for the oversight of state and federal funds that support Independent Living Services. A detailed description of the grant process and policies of oversight is located in section 4.2, 4.3 and 4.7.

The following chart indicates how Independent Living funding is allocated within Massachusetts. Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B funding is primarily used to support the SILC Resource Plan and Consumer Services. Consumer Services funding is utilized to purchase home modifications, vehicle modifications, assistive technology and other services that support individuals with disabilities in remaining in the community or moving out of an institution into the community. Utilizing Chapter 1, Part B funding for this purpose continues to be seen as an important tool in realizing the overall mission of the Independent Living Network and the SPIL.

State Plan for Independent Living goals and objectives are met with state, federal and other funding sources.

Amount	Funding Source	Agency (ies)	Description
\$155,950.50	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	CILs and Deaf Inc	Direct services for consumers at IL Centers and DEAF Inc. to support consumer Independent Living Goals
\$60,000	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	Centers for Independent Living	Support services coordination required for the support of Independent Living Services.
\$6,000	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	DEAF Inc.	Support services coordination required for the support of Independent Living Services.
\$32,000	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	Massachusetts Commission for the Blind	MCB would utilize Part B funds for its direct services program to provide independent living services to those legally blind persons with the most significant secondary

			disabilities. The priority for MCB Part B is service provision that will enable people to remain in their homes, enhancing capacity for independent living and community integration.
\$ 112,696.20	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan including General operations and the support of developing, implementation and monitoring the State Plan for Independent Living
\$18,845.30	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	Administrative Costs
\$1,731,410	Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C	Centers for Independent Living	Direct funding of IL services through Centers for Independent Living.
\$43,034.80	State Funds	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan
TBD	Innovation and Expansion Funds	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan
\$8,000,000	State Funds	Centers for Independent Living	Direct funding of IL services through Centers for Independent Living.

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Services

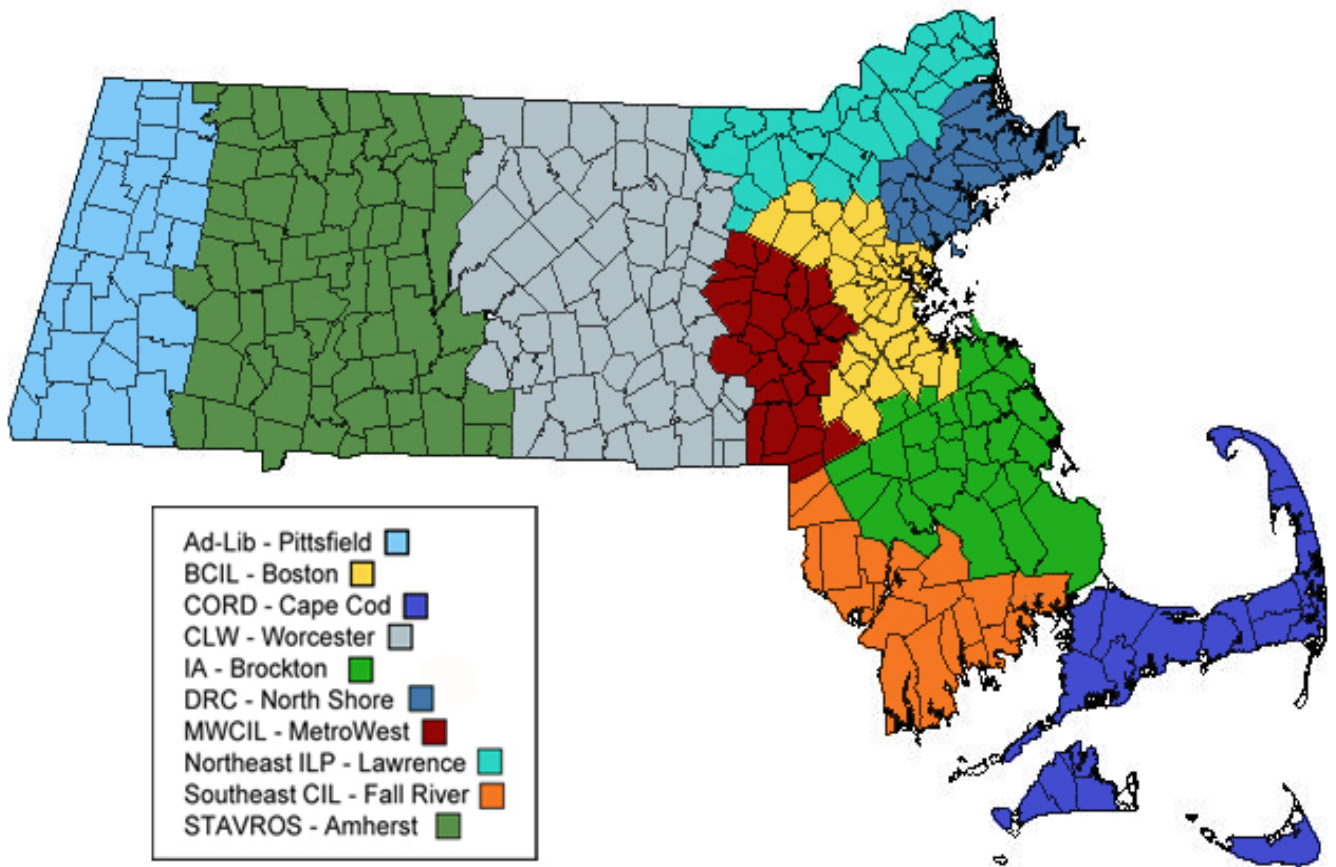
Services to be provided to persons with disabilities that promote full access to community life including geographic scope, determination of eligibility and statewideess.

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Core Independent Living Services, as follows:		x	CIL / DSE

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Information and referral – IL skills training – Peer counseling – Individual and systems advocacy – Transition services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transition from nursing homes & other institutions ▪ Diversion from institutions ▪ Transition of youth (who were eligible for an IEP) to post-secondary life 		x	CIL/ DSE
		x	CIL/ DSE
		x	CIL
	x	x	CIL
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services			
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities) Note: CILs are not allowed to own or operate housing.	x	x	CIL, MCB
Mobility training		x	CIL
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services		x	CIL
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services		x	CIL
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services		x	CIL/ DSE
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act		x	CIL/ DSE
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities		x	CIL

Independent living services	Provided using Part B (check to indicate yes)	Provided using other funds (check to indicate yes; do not list the other funds)	Entity that provides (specify CIL, DSE, or the other entity)
Supported living		x	DSE
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation		x	CIL
Physical rehabilitation			
Therapeutic treatment			
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices		x	DSE
Assistive Technology	x	x	CIL, DSE, MCB, Deaf Inc.
Individual and group social and recreational services		x	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		x	CIL
Services for children with significant disabilities		x	CIL, 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 significant disabilities		x	CIL, DSE
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future		x	CIL
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities		x	CIL, DSE
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	x	x	CIL, DSE

A map on the following page indicates the areas served by each Center for Independent Living.



2.2 Outreach

Identify steps to be taken regarding statewide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs that are funded under Title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

In Massachusetts underserved individuals are individuals with disabilities who could benefit from Independent Living Center Services, but do not access or are not able to fully access them due to barriers of language and culture, ethnicity or race, gender identity, geographic location and or disability status. Massachusetts does not currently have any cities or towns that are unserved, but recognizes the above barriers impact an individual's ability to access services.

Massachusetts CILs identified both geographic areas that were underserved as well as groups individuals who face social barriers to obtaining Independent Living services through a survey administered to CILs by the State Plan Committee. Additional input on these populations was also received during listening session for input on the State Plan.

Massachusetts CILs across the state identified geographic areas that are underserved. These include rural areas in Berkshire County, Franklin County, and Worcester County. They also include areas outside of cities and towns outside of major metropolitan areas in Middlesex,

Barnstable, Essex and Plymouth counties. Centers for Independent Living also identified areas that are isolated by lack of transportation in Essex, Norfolk and Middlesex counties as areas that are underserved.

Across Massachusetts, CILs identified individuals with mental health disabilities as underserved. Individuals with substance abuse disorders have been identified as facing particular challenges to accessing services. Centers for Independent Living also identified immigrant and non-English speaking communities as underserved, though given the regional diversity of Massachusetts, there are variations in which immigrant and non-English speaking communities are underserved in each service area. Commonly identified underserved non-English speaking communities include individuals who speak Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian. Individuals from multiply marginalized groups were also identified as underserved.

The experience of the Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts is that the most effective outreach is done at the community level. Increasing services to underserved populations of people with disabilities is a SPIL goal. To achieve this goal, the ILCs will draft outreach plans focusing on underserved and unserved populations in their service areas and conduct regular training for staff and Boards on serving unserved and underserved populations.

During this SPIL period, the Independent Living network (CILs and the SILC) will build on collaboration with the Massachusetts Office on Disability (MOD) and local Disability Commissions, to increase connections at the community level with underserved populations. The Independent Living Network will use in-person and virtual meetings to connect Independent Living Center staff and local Disability Commissions. The IL network will seek to collaborate in statewide conferences (in-person or virtual) as well as smaller meetings (in-person or virtual) by geography and Centers for Independent Living. This increased collaboration would have the objective of increasing community connections in geographic areas that are underserved and or have populations that are underserved with the goal of increasing awareness and comfort and request for services with Centers for Independent Living.

2.3 Coordination

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

The CIL directors, MASILC Coordinator and DSE meet at least six times per calendar year to discuss issues related to Independent Living Services and ensure coordination of services across the state. Massachusetts CIL directors and members of the Statewide Independent Living Council participate in coordination of services in both formal and informal ways. These are described in more detail in the following paragraphs.

MASILC meets quarterly. Meetings are open to the public and include voting representatives from at least five centers as well as Ex- Officio non-voting seats from the DSE the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind and the Massachusetts Office on Disability.

MASILC members sit on advisory councils for the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind.

Vocational Education

MRC contracts with each of the CILs to provide pre-vocational services for current MRC VR Consumers.

Developmental Disabilities Services

Some of the CILs are involved with developmental disabilities services through their participation in their local ADRC. MRC is involved with the statewide coordination of ADRCs. DDS offers CILS opportunities to attend trainings, including on identifying individuals that would benefit from DDS services.

Public Health

Some of the CILs are involved with public health services through their participation in their local ADRC and MRC is involved with the statewide coordination of ADRCs. The SILC also participates as a member of the Health and Disability Partnership. The Massachusetts Health and Disability Partnership is a coalition of disability advocacy organizations, state agencies, and other stakeholders working to improve the health of people with disabilities statewide, which was created by the Department of Public Health's Health and Disability Program.

Mental Health

One CIL has a Recovery Learning Community, funded by the Department of Mental Health. Other centers work very closely with Recovery Learning Communities in their service areas.

Housing

Many CILs work with local housing authorities, the Home Modification loan programs and other local programs that support individuals with disabilities in finding, keeping or modifying housing in order to help individuals with disabilities live in the community. CILS also work closely with their local tenancy preservation programs.

In September 2022, the CILs hired a ILC Housing Projects Coordinator using funding from the Public Health Workforce Grant. The ILC Housing Projects Coordinator has built on the existing housing work of ILCs and initiated a monthly Housing Working Group meeting to increase collaboration and share resources best practices across Centers. The ILC Housing Coordinator has built new relationships with housing stakeholders across Massachusetts to ensure more effective communication about the needs of IL consumers and create the opportunity for future collaborations. As of the drafting of this report, the IL Network is pursuing funding to sustain this initiative.

Transportation

The majority of CILS participate in regional transportation groups or sit on advisory boards of regional transportation authorities.

Veterans Services

Some of the CILs are involved with veterans consumer-directed services through their participation in their local ADRC and MRC is involved with the statewide coordination of ADRCs. A number of Centers have partnered with the VA to become a Veteran-Directed Care Provider, and other Centers are pursuing this designation.

Home and Community Based Supports

All CILs consistently work with the DSEs and other state agencies to ensure that the consumer-directed PCA program, the first in the country, is reflective of independent living philosophy as well as is sufficiently available to CIL consumers. Many CILs provide Medicaid-funded consumer-directed Personal Care Assistance programs. Several CILs work closely with the State through advisory groups for both the PCA program and Medicaid to assure that Home and Community Based supports are available as alternatives to institutional placements, including nursing facilities.

Emergency Response and Preparedness

Massachusetts CILs participate in both emergency preparedness and emergency response at both a local and a statewide level. They collaborate with MEMA, the Massachusetts Office on Disability, and local emergency management directors.

Formerly Incarcerated People with Disabilities

CILs across Massachusetts collaborate with state and local organizations to support individuals with disabilities leaving incarceration or formerly incarcerated. Adlib works with the local Public Defender's office and district attorney's office. STAVROS works with Prisoner's Legal 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 (e.g., Part B, Part C, state funds, etc.) and oversight entity.

Massachusetts Centers for Independent Living	Service Area	Funding Sources	Oversight process	Oversight entity
Ad Lib (Pittsfield) SPIL Signatory	32 cities and towns in Berkshire County	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE

Boston Center for Independent Living (Boston) SPIL Signatory	Suffolk, Norfolk and Middlesex Counties including the city of Boston and 34 urban and suburban communities	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (Hyannis) SPIL Signatory	23 towns on Cape Cod, and the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Barnstable, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Center for Living and Working (Worcester) SPIL Signatory	63 cities and towns in Central Massachusetts located in Worcester & Middlesex Counties	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Independence Associates (East Bridgewater) SPIL Signatory	31 cities and towns in Southeastern Massachusetts located in Plymouth & Bristol Counties	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Disability Resource Center (Salem) SPIL Signatory	25 cities and towns along the coast North of Boston as far north as the tip of Cape Ann in the coastal region located in Essex County	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
MetroWest Center for Independent Living (Framingham) SPIL Signatory	26 towns in suburban and rural communities located between Boston and Worcester in Middlesex & Norfolk Counties;	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Northeast Independent Living Program (Lawrence) SPIL Signatory	27 cities and towns located in the northeast corner of Massachusetts in Middlesex & Essex Counties	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Southeast Center for Independent Living (Fall River and New Bedford) SPIL Signatory	20 cities and towns in the southeast coastal area of Massachusetts located in Plymouth & Bristol Counties;	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE
Stavros (Amherst, Greenfield, and Springfield)	69 cities and rural towns of Western Massachusetts in Franklin, Hampden, & Hampshire Counties.	Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State and Other	CIL submits PPR to DSE	DSE

SPIL Signatory				
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Massachusetts network of Centers for Independent Living is outlined in the chart above. Massachusetts currently has 10 Centers for Independent Living that serve all the communities of Massachusetts. All centers are funded with Subchapter C, Subchapter B, State, and other funding and provide the five core services to individuals with disabilities throughout their service areas. All Centers for Independent Living identified in the chart above are eligible SPIL Signatories.

1.2 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 statewideness of Network.

Definition of served, unserved and underserved

The definition of served are individuals who receive or have received services from Centers for Independent Living.

Massachusetts CILs currently serve all 351 communities in Massachusetts. There are no communities that are unserved at this time.

Underserved are individuals with disabilities who could benefit from Independent Living Center Services, but do not access or are not able to fully access them due to barriers of language and culture, ethnicity or race, gender identity, geographic location and or disability status.

Massachusetts CILs serve all 351 communities of Massachusetts. Over the last three years, Massachusetts CILs served an average of 33,500 individuals with disabilities each year over the last three years. Despite serving all communities there is still unmet IL service need.

Massachusetts CILs identified both geographic areas that were underserved as well as groups individuals who face social barriers to obtaining Independent Living services through a survey administered to CILs by the State Plan Committee. Additional input on these populations was also received during listening session for input on the State Plan.

Massachusetts CILs across the state identified geographic areas that are underserved. These include rural areas in Berkshire County, Franklin County, and Worcester County. They also include areas outside of cities and towns outside of major metropolitan areas in Middlesex, Barnstable, Essex and Plymouth counties. Centers for Independent Living also identified areas that are isolated by lack of transportation in Essex, Norfolk and Middlesex counties as areas that

are underserved.

Across Massachusetts, CILs identified individuals with mental health disabilities as underserved. Individuals with substance abuse disorders have been identified as facing particular challenges to accessing services. Centers for Independent Living also identified immigrant and non-English speaking communities as underserved, though given the regional diversity of Massachusetts, there are variations in which immigrant and non-English speaking communities are underserved in each service area. Commonly identified underserved non-English speaking communities include individuals who speak Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian. Individuals from multiply marginalized groups were also identified as underserved.

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.

The SILC and Massachusetts Centers for Independent Living determined that the minimum level of funding for a center is \$800,000. Currently all ILCs in Massachusetts are funded above this level.

The CILs will continue to focus on increased funding. The formula for increased funding or decreasing funding described below supports the goal of maintaining this current equilibrium.

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

- If a Centers relinquishes funds in a given fiscal year, the funds are redistributed to the remaining centers according to the funding formula used to distribute new funds discussed earlier in this section.
- In the event that a Center funded by Title VII, Part B or Part C should close or no longer qualify to receive State or Federal funding, and the funds remain available to use in the state priority would be given to maintain or re-establish service through allocation of funds to an existing center or creating a Center for Independent Living to serve those areas. The following steps would be taken to ensure statewide services are maintained.
- The DSE will develop a competitive RFP process in collaboration with the Statewide Independent Living Council. This process will award the funds to a non-profit organization that meets the qualifications of an Independent Living Center to provide services to the geographic location served by the Center that closed.
- If a center closing occurs without time to complete an RFP process and award funds prior to the end of the fiscal year, the DSE will allocate funds in the following way:
 - Funds that can be rolled over to the next fiscal year will be provided to the new grantee to assist with start-up costs.
 - Funds that cannot be rolled over will be allocated to geographically adjacent Centers to provide interim services to individuals with disabilities in the service area of the closed ILC.

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

Each of the 351 communities in Massachusetts is served by one of the existing Centers for Independent Living. As of the completion of this SPIL, two of the CILs have branch offices providing the five core services; Boston Center for Independent Living (downtown Boston and Dorchester), and Stavros (Springfield, Amherst, and Greenfield). One center, South East Center for Independent Living, offers services by appointment at a satellite office in New Bedford. The ability to provide services virtually has impacted the utility of branch offices. Access to assistive technology by both consumers and center staff has eased the need for branch locations.

The network of Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts will continue to build capacity across the state by enhancing the ability of all centers to provide services to individuals with disabilities. This will be accomplished through, when funding allows, an increase in staffing, training for staff, and the use of technology to provide services. At this time there is no plan to increase the number of satellite or branch offices.

Plan/ formula for distributing new funds (subchapter B, subchapter C, one-time funds, etc)

New money from **subchapter C and State IL** will be distributed among the existing CILs using the following process:

Additional monies will be split 12 ways with The Boston Center for Independent Living receiving 3 shares to address their large service area, and each of the 9 remaining CILs will receive 1 share.

The process for distributing Subchapter B funds is discussed in detail in section 4.2. Increases in Subchapter B funds are distributed equally among Centers for Independent Living and Deaf Inc. for client services.

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

Any cuts in Title 7 Part C, or state funds allocated for Independent Living, will be applied to all CILs in the network existing at the time, using the same formula used for new funding distribution.

Plan for changes to Center service areas and/or funding levels to accommodate expansion and/or adjustment of the Network.

No funding changes are needed at this time. There is no plan within this SPIL to change current CIL service areas or funding levels to accommodate expansion or adjustment.

Section 4: Designated State Entity

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) will serve as the entity in Massachusetts 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. *(Sec. 704(c))*

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.

- As noted in the financial plan the DSE will utilize no more than 5% of Subchapter B funds for costs related to the administration of IL services. Quarterly financial reports to the SILC list these expenses and the overall award amount.
- The SILC does not plan to utilize DSE employees as staff for the SILC during this SPIL period.

4.3 State Imposed Requirements

State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL including: (45 CFR 1329.17(g))

- State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSE's administration or operation of IL programs
- 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

MRC imposes no requirements in the provisions of this SPIL which might limit, expand or alter the requirements for the SPIL.

4.4 Grant Process & Distribution of Funds

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

- The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission distributes Part B funds through a variety of mechanisms. The Statewide Independent Living Council receives Part B funds as part of the Resource Plan. Funds for operations of the Statewide Independent Living Council are made available through a cost reimbursement contract with the SILC's fiscal host, the MetroWest Center for Independent Living. The fiscal host is chosen through an open competitive procurement in accordance with Massachusetts state procurement requirements. An RFR for this role was issued at the end of FFY19. Part B funds are distributed as described in more detail in Section 5.2. Part B dollars allocated to the SILC and unused during the fiscal year are rolled over to the next fiscal year.

- The priority for MCB Part B is service provision that will enable people to remain in their homes, enhancing capacity for independent living and community integration. Part B funds allocated to Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB) are transferred through an Interagency Service Agreement. MCB purchases ramps from a state-approved vendor.
- Part B funds for Independent Living services and Service Coordination by the CILs and DEAF, Inc. are distributed based on Master Service Agreements. These are issued on a non-competitive basis, as only these entities listed in the SPIL can provide Part B services with MRC's share of Part B funds. These contracts have no funds attached and are good for 10 years. The actual allocation of funds is done through authorization emails, with each CIL and DEAF, Inc. being allocated the same amount. Funds are encumbered on a Master Service Agreement, allowing multiple entities to be paid from a single encumbrance.
 - Funds are allocated for service coordination.
 - The remaining funds allow for use in three categories:
 1. Consumer Services
 2. Innovative projects that enhance Independent Living
 3. CILs or Deaf Inc. can choose to use Part B funds in a combination of option 1 and 2.
 - Innovative projects require a short application. (Attachment 1) and are reviewed and approved by the SILC with support from MRC.
 - Centers can make the decision to transfer any funds allocated to their ILC for service coordination to consumer services.
- Part B Consumer Services Policy:
 - Consumers are allowed to receive funding from more than one category in each FFY and consumers can request funding in subsequent years as long as new consumers requesting services are given priority to be served.
 - Part B funding may be used for the following services, with the cost limitations specified below:
 - \$8,200 limit for vehicle modifications.
 - \$2,500 limit for Assistive Technology.
 - \$3,000 limit for home modification. People eligible for the Home Modification Loan Program would be ineligible for Part B unless they can show that the total cost of their modification exceeds the loan limit of the HMLP
 - \$3,000 will be the limit for ancillary services.
 - Ancillary services must be related to either:
 - a. expenses that will facilitate transition or diversion from an institution (nursing facility or shelter), and where such institutionalization is disability-related, and not solely due to financial circumstances; or,
 - b. goods and services that improve the health or safety of an eligible individual when it can be justified that these goods and services will improve the individual's ability to function, continue functioning or move towards functioning independently in family

or community or to continue in employment. Staff are encouraged to explore other methods of payment for goods and services first and should document denials.

- Subchapter B funds for consumer services will be allocated to the individual CILs and DEAF, Inc. as soon as funds are available. Each CIL and Deaf Inc. will be allocated an amount which they can use for the federal Fiscal Year in which the funds were appropriated. As of December 31st following the end of the FFY, any funds which were not encumbered by a CIL and DEAF, Inc. for a specific client's services will be allocated to a central fund. For the subsequent year those central funds will be managed by MRC, and any CIL which has exhausted its own allocation of Part B funds may apply to use central funds for consumer services.

4.5 Oversight Process for Part B Funds

The oversight process to be followed by the DSE.

Massachusetts is a 723 State. The DSE receives and distributes Subchapter C and B funding and is responsible for the oversight of Subchapter C, Subchapter B and state funding to Centers for Independent Living and the Statewide Independent Living Council.

- Oversight of Part B funds received by the SILC: MRC exercises oversight of these funds through a number of mechanisms. MRC's liaison participates in the SILC's Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and State Plan Committee, as well as in regular quarterly meetings. MRC monitors SILC billing against the SILC's approved budget and the fiscal host contract.
- Oversight of the Centers for Independent Living is carried out by the DSE through:
 - Review of quarterly service reports, including progress toward contractual outcomes.
 - Monitoring of expenditures against contract amounts.
 - Utilization and billing for Part B services
 - Review of annual Program Performance Reports
 - Site reviews for compliance with federal standards and assurances, as well as with state contractual requirements. These will continue to be conducted by the MRC, in cooperation with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), using the timelines established for federal compliance reviews.
- Oversight of DEAF, Inc. relates solely to their utilization of Part B funds for consumer services. This is carried out through review of documents submitted for individual authorizations of funds, and invoicing.
- MRC reviews quarterly reports submitted by MCB which document the services provided and related expenses charged against the Interagency Service Agreement.

4.6 722 vs. 723 State

Check one:

- 722 (if checked, will move to Section 5)
 723 (if checked, will move to Section 4.7)

4.7 723 States

Order of priorities for allocating funds amounts to Centers, agreed upon by the SILC and Centers, and any differences from 45 CFR 1329.21 & 1329.22.

- 1) Existing Centers for Independent Living are funded at the level they were funded the previous year.
- 2) As noted in section 3.2 funding for the Centers, will be allocated using the following formula; New funds (**subchapter C, state funds and one-time funds**) will be split 12 ways with The Boston Center for Independent Living receiving 3 shares to address their large service area, and each of the 9 remaining CILs will receive 1 share. This second priority allows for both cost of living increases as well as increases to address underserved geographic areas that exist.
- 3) Subchapter B funds are allocated as described in section 1.5 and increases are allocated equally to CILs and Deaf Inc.

How state policies, practices, and procedures governing the awarding of grants to Centers and oversight of the Centers are consistent with 45 CFR 1329.5, 1329.6, & 1329.22.

Awarding Grants:

The Designated State Entity (DSE), the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC), will continue to receive and administer federal funds under Section 723 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, according to current practice, including:

The director of the DSE hereby applies to award grants or assistance contracts to eligible agencies in the State that comply with indicators of minimum compliance in 45 CFR 1329.5. The grants are to be made from the funds allotted to the State for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of CILs under part C, Chapter 1.

State IL contracts for existing Centers for Independent Living (CILs) will continue to be linked to existing federal grants pursuant to the provisions of regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Purchased Services.

The director of the DSE awards grants or assistance contracts under section 723 of the Act to any eligible agency that was awarded a grant under part C, Chapter 1 on September 30, 1993, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act or the director of the DSE and the Chairperson of the SILC, or other individual designated by the SILC to act on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, jointly agree to another order of priorities.

In the event that a center closes the DSE will develop a competitive RFP process in collaboration with the SILC consistent with 45 CFR 1329.22.

The State assures that any assistance contracts issued to eligible agencies will not add any requirements, terms, or conditions to the assistance contract other than those that would be

permitted if the assistance contract were a sub-grant consistent with grants issued by ACL under section 722 of the Act.

In administering the part C, Chapter 1 program, the State will not enter into any procurement contracts with CILs to carry out section 723 of the Act.

Monitoring

CILs in Massachusetts submit PPR reports to the DSE consistent with 45 CFR 1329.6.

The DSE assures that periodic and on-site compliance reviews will be conducted to determine CIL compliance with section 725 and CFR 45 1329.5.

- MRC the DSE will use the Overview of Compliance and Outcome Monitoring Protocol (COMP) as guidance in conducting on-site or desk reviews of Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts.
- State and federal site reviews for compliance with standards and assurances will continue to be conducted by the MRC, in cooperation with the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), using the timelines established for federal compliance reviews.

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Establishment of SILC

How the SILC is established and SILC autonomy is assured.

On December 12, 2019 Governor Baker signed Executive Order 590 revoking the previous Executive Order 373 signed by Governor Weld Sept 26, 1994 establishing the Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council. The new order changed the number of voting members and Ex-Officio members.

MASILC is not a 501c3 non-profit and does not exist within a state agency. MASILC maintains autonomy through a fiscal intermediary. The current fiscal intermediary is the Metro West Center for Independent Living, Inc. (MWCIL) in Framingham, Massachusetts. MWCIL hosts the SILC offices and provides administrative and fiscal support. The process of determining the fiscal intermediary is through a competitive grant process administered by the DSE in partnership with appointed members of MASILC. The contract for providing administrative support to the SILC is updated every 10 years, most recently in December 2019.

The SILC develops and implements its own budget separate and independent from MWCIL and the state agencies. MWCIL simply acts as the SILC's fiscal intermediary. The SILC is governed by its own set of bylaws, policies, and procedures.

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.

The SILC receives \$115,647.60 in Part B funding and \$45,000 in other state funding. Innovation

& Expansion funds are to be determined. The total of \$160,647.60 annually is sufficient to support the SILC Coordinator, training and travel for SILC members, reasonable accommodations, and communication access for SILC Meetings and public hearings for SPIL input. Funding for the SILC is in compliance with 45 CFR to carry out its statutory duties including;

- (1) The SILC shall develop the SPIL in accordance with guidelines developed by the Administrator;
- (2) The SILC shall monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL on a regular basis as determined by the SILC and set forth in the SPIL;
- (3) The SILC shall meet regularly, and ensure that such meetings are open to the public and sufficient advance notice of such meetings is provided;
- (4) The SILC shall submit to the Administrator such periodic reports as the Administrator may reasonably request, and keep such records, and afford such access to such records, as the Administrator finds necessary to verify the information in such reports; and
- (5) The SILC shall, as appropriate, coordinate activities with other entities in the State that provide services similar to or complementary to independent living services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community-based services and supports.

Process used to develop the Resource Plan.

The SILC resource plan was reviewed as part of the process of SPIL development. The SPIL writing team reviewed the current allocation and made recommendations to the DSE and Independent Living Center Directors to maintain the current level of funding for the SILC resource plan.

While the SILC resource plan has been level-funded for at least the last two SPIL cycles it remains adequate for the SILC to carry out its duties and the authorities listed below.

- (1) Work with Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services with public and private entities to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities;
- (2) Conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in the approved SPIL and/or to support the provision of independent living services by Centers for Independent Living; and
- (3) Perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this part and comparable to other functions described in section 705(c) of the Act, as the Council determines to be appropriate and authorized in the approved SPIL. Conducting systemic advocacy will be completed under this authority.

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

Metro West Center for Independent Living (MWCIL) serves as the fiscal agent for the SILC. This contract was awarded through a competitive RFR process by the DSE. The MASILC budget is developed and approved by the SILC membership. Funds are dispersed by the DSE to MWCIL on a cost reimbursement basis. MWCIL invoices the DSE monthly with detailed expenditures for the previous month. The DSE disburses funds to the fiscal agent in an average of 30 business days.

5.3 Maintenance of SILC

How State will maintain SILC over the course of the SPIL.¹

Process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b)

In Massachusetts, the Governor appoints members to the SILC. This process is administered by the Office of Boards and Commissions. MASILC works closely with staff of this office to ensure that appointments are up to date and meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Massachusetts accepts memberships for all boards through an online application and by recommendation from the SILC, through the Nominations Committee. MASILC works closely with the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions to ensure that all applicants for appointments to the SILC are vetted to ensure they would meet composition requirements and be able to carry out their duties as SILC members. MASILC Nominations Committee works to ensure that appointments to the SILC include individuals who provide statewide representation and include individuals with disabilities from diverse backgrounds. This includes individuals who represent a diversity of disability as well as diversity of race and ethnicity.

The process of making recommendations to the Governor for appointment to the SILC is outlined in the Article IV, Section 8.2 of the MASILC Bylaws and further described in detail in MASILC policies. MASILC maintains a Nominations and Development Committee that oversees membership and tracks appointments. This committee meets monthly to review applications, current appointments and term limits, and plan for outreach and training. The Nominations Committee follows the current MASILC Policy regarding the nomination process. This includes reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and presenting selected individuals to the Executive Committee and membership for approval. Approved individuals are then sent to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions as nominees. The Nominations Committee develops monthly updates to send to the Governor's Office on Boards and Commissions. In addition to the monthly updates, MASILC meets with staff in person or via video conferencing when there are changes in staffing, regulations or as needed. This process ensures appointments are made in a timely manner. SILC appointments are made on a rolling basis, vacancies are filled using the process described above. The SILC Chairperson is chosen at the annual meeting of the SILC, held in September, as outlined in MASILC By-laws. The Chairperson is chosen by a majority vote for a term of one year.

Staffing requirements

The SILC hires an independent consultant to act as its Coordinator. The Coordinator is a contracted position with the SILC's fiscal intermediary the MetroWest Center for Independent Living. The Coordinator's contract is reviewed annually by the SILC Chairperson & its fiscal intermediary to be sure that the coordinator is fulfilling the tasks outlined on the independent consultant's contract.

The SILC Coordinator is directed by the SILC Chairperson. All assignments and tasks come to the coordinator directly from the chairperson who works with the Executive Committee and the other active committees of the SILC. Although the SILC is housed at the MetroWest Center for Independent Living, Inc. it is governed by its own set of bylaws and policies and procedures

separate from the center's. The SILC fiscal agent provides office space for the SILC to perform its day-to-day operations.

SILC organization and autonomy

As described in section 5.1, MASILC is an organization independent of a State Agency. MASILC finances are overseen by a fiscal agent and the day-to-day operations are carried out by an independent consultant that acts as the Coordinator for MASILC. MASILC membership approves the budget of the SILC and monitors expenditures. The Coordinator's work for the SILC is monitored and evaluated by the MASILC Executive Committee. As described in section 5.2, the SILC resource plan provides necessary and sufficient resources to ensure the SILC has the capacity to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities. This includes sufficient funding for the Coordinator, transportation for SILC members, communication access and other reasonable accommodations to support daily operations, quarterly meetings and hearings or other forms of public meetings as necessary.

Section 6: Legal Basis and Certifications

6.1 Designated State Entity (DSE)

The state entity/agency designated to receive and distribute funding, as directed by the SPIL, under Title VII, Part B of the Act is Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.
Authorized representative of the DSE Toni Wolf Title Commissioner.

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 The Massachusetts 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:

Ad Lib Inc.
Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (CORD)
Center for Living and Working (CLW)
Disability Resource Center (DRC)
Independence Associates (IA)
MetroWest Center for Independent Living (MWCIL)
Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP)
Southeast Center for Independent Living (SCIL)
Stavros

6.4 Authorizations

6.4.a. The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL to the Independent Living Administration, Administration for Community Living. **Yes** (Yes/No)

6.4.b. The SILC and CILs may legally carry out each provision of the SPIL. **YES** (Yes/No)

6.4.c. State/DSE operation and administration of the program is authorized by the SPIL. **YES** (Yes/No)

Section 7: DSE Assurances

Toni Wolf acting on behalf of the DSE **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission** located at **600 Washington St, Boston, MA 02111 (617) 204-3600 toni.wolf@state.ma.us** 45 CFR 1329.11 assures that:

- 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;¹
- 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).

The signature below indicates this entity/agency’s agreement to: serve as the DSE and fulfill all the responsibilities in Sec. 704(c) of the Act; affirm the State will comply with the aforementioned assurances during the three-year period of this SPIL; and develop, with the SILC, and ensure that the SILC resource plan is necessary and sufficient (in compliance with section 8, indicator (6) below) for the SILC to fulfill its statutory duties and authorities under Sec. 705(c) of the Act, consistent with the approved SPIL.¹

Toni Wolf, Commissioner Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Name and Title of DSE director/authorized representative

Signature

Date

Electronic signature may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

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

8.1 Assurances

Steven Higgins acting on behalf of the SILC **Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council** located at **1 Clarks Hill, Suite 200 Framingham, MA 0170201702 508-620-7452** info@masilc.org 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;¹
- (3) The SILC terms of appointment adhere to the Act;¹
- (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.¹
- (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.

Section 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 timeline for advance notice to the public for SILC “Executive Session” meetings, that are closed to the public, that follow applicable federal and State laws;
 - 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;

1. 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;
 - ii. Funds for innovation and expansion activities under Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act, 29 U.S.C. Sec. 721(a)(18), as applicable;
 - iii. 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.

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

Steven Higgins

Name of SILC chairperson

Signature

Date

Electronic signature may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

Section 9: 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 **Massachusetts 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 **October 1, 2024**

SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

Steven Higgins

DATE

NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON

AdLib, Inc

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Sally English

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL)

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Bill Henning

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled.

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Coreen Brinckerhoff

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Center for Living and Working (CLW)

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Margaret Coffin

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Independence Associates (IA)

NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Steven Higgins
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR DATE

Lisa Orgettas
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

MetroWest Center for Independent Living
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR DATE

Sadie Simone
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP)
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR DATE

Matt Pellegrino
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

Southeast Center for Independent Living
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR DATE

Lisa Pitta
NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

STAVROS
NAME OF CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL)

SIGNATURE OF CIL DIRECTOR

DATE

Angelina Ramirez

NAME OF CIL DIRECTOR

(INSERT ADDITIONAL CILS AS NEEDED)

Electronic signatures may be used for the purposes of submission, but hard copy of signature must be kept on file by the SILC.

Appendix A

Massachusetts Part B Alternate Funding Application

Date of Application: _____

Independent Living Center: _____

Contact Name:

Email:

Phone Number:

Project Dates: check all that apply

____ October 1, 2022- September 30, 2024

Other date range: _____

Total Project Cost: _____

Part B Funds requested for project: _____

Allowable Part B category the project falls under:

____ to demonstrate ways to expand and improve independent living services;

____ to support the operation of centers for independent living that are in compliance with the standards and assurances set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 725;

____ to support activities to increase the capacities of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing independent living services;

____ to conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policymakers in order to enhance independent living services for individuals with disabilities;

____ to train individuals with disabilities and individuals providing services to individuals with disabilities and other persons regarding the independent living philosophy; and

____ to provide outreach to populations that are unserved or underserved by programs under this title, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

Brief Project description:

- What need does the project address?
- Project Goals
- Measurable outcomes / and evaluation measures

- How Part B funds will be used