

Summary of the 2025-2027 Massachusetts State Plan for Independent Living

About the State Plan for Independent Living

What is MASILC?

The Massachusetts Statewide Independent Living Council (MASILC or “the SILC”) is a Governor-appointed Council whose purpose is to advance disability policy in Massachusetts. The majority of MASILC members are people with disabilities.

MASILC promotes greater access, inclusion, and independence for people with disabilities in Massachusetts.

MASILC works closely with the 10 Centers for Independent Living in Massachusetts.

What is a SPIL?

- Each state needs to create a three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL must be approved by the Administration for Community Living in Washington, DC in order to receive federal funding for Independent Living programs.
- The SPIL should serve as a blueprint for the funding, goals, and activities of the independent living network in the state

Who Develops The SPIL?

§ 1329.17 (d) The State plan must be **jointly**—

- (1) Developed by the ***chairperson of the SILC***, and the ***directors of the CILs***, **after receiving public input from individuals with disabilities and other stakeholders throughout the State**; and

Why is the SPIL important?

The SPIL ensures consumer control of statewide funding and policy

- **People with disabilities are making the decisions** about funding, program focus, systems advocacy, outreach plans, and expansion of the network.
- **People with disabilities run the CILs and the SILC**—and the CILs and the SILC are the SPIL decision-makers and authors.

About the 2025-2027 State Plan for Independent Living

Key Terms

- The time period of the SPIL is Fiscal Years 2025- 2027. This is October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2027.
- Designated State Entity (DSE): The DSE receives, monitors, and distributes federal funds, as described in the SPIL. In MA, the DSE is the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC).
- 723 State: 723 States are states where funding to CILs is the same as or more than federal funding. In 723 States, the DSE has a bigger role in monitoring funds. The SPIL designates MA as a 723 State.
- Funding:
 - Federal Part B: Federal funds that pass through the state.
 - Federal Part C: Direct grants to CILs from the federal government. (Because MA is a 723 State, these funds are also passed through the state)
 - State funding:
 - State funding comes from the MA state budget which MA legislators pass each year.
 - State funding also comes from MRC's budget.

SPIL Goals

These are the goals the Independent Living Network has set for the year period of the SPIL:

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

What is the plan for accomplishing these goals?

1. Access to affordable accessible housing:
 - CILs will advocate for more housing vouchers for people with disabilities
 - CILs will advocate for better policies improving the accessibility standards for new and renovated housing
2. Increased capacity to engage in transportation advocacy
 - CILs will recruit riders to sit on Regional Transit Authority (RTA) advisory boards
 - CILs will form a committee to collaborate on accessible transportation goals across the state
3. Increased CIL services to underserved populations
 - All CILs will have an outreach plan focused on underserved consumers in the service area
 - Increased training to CIL staff and Boards focused on underserved populations, particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) populations and other multiply marginalized populations
4. Increased support for CILs in MA
 - CILs will advocate for \$5 million more funding, and funding for nursing home transition work.

Learn more about SPIL Goals on pages 3-7 of the SPIL.

Funding for MA Independent Living

Where does the funding come from?

Source	Amount
Federal: Part B	\$385,492.00
Federal: Part C	\$1,731,410.00
Federal: Innovation & Expansion	\$45,000.00
State	\$8,045,000.00
TOTAL	\$10,206,902.00

How is the funding spent?

Amount	Funding Source	Agency(ies)	Description
\$155,950.50	Part B	CILs and Deaf Inc	Direct services for consumers at CILs and DEAF Inc. to support Independent Living Goals
\$60,000.00	Part B	CILs	Support services and coordination required for the support of Independent Living Services.
\$6,000.00	Part B	DEAF Inc.	Support services and coordination required for the support of Independent Living Services.
\$32,000.00	Part B	Massachusetts Commission for the Blind	Direct services for consumers at MCB (legally blind persons with the most significant secondary disabilities) to support Independent Living Goals
\$ 112,696.20	Part B	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan including General operations and the support of developing, implementation, and monitoring the SPIL
\$18,845.30	Part B	Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	Administrative Costs
\$1,731,410.00	Part C	CILs	Direct funding of IL services through CILs
\$45,000.00	Part B State Match Funds	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan
\$8,000,000.00	State Funds	CILs	Direct funding of IL services through CILs
\$45,000.00	Innovation and Expansion Funds	MASILC	SILC Resource Plan

\$10,206,902.00	TOTAL		
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The SILC and Massachusetts CILs determined that the minimum level of funding for a center is \$800,000. Currently, all CILs in Massachusetts are funded above this level.

If new funds become available (Part B, Part C, State IL funds or one-time funds):

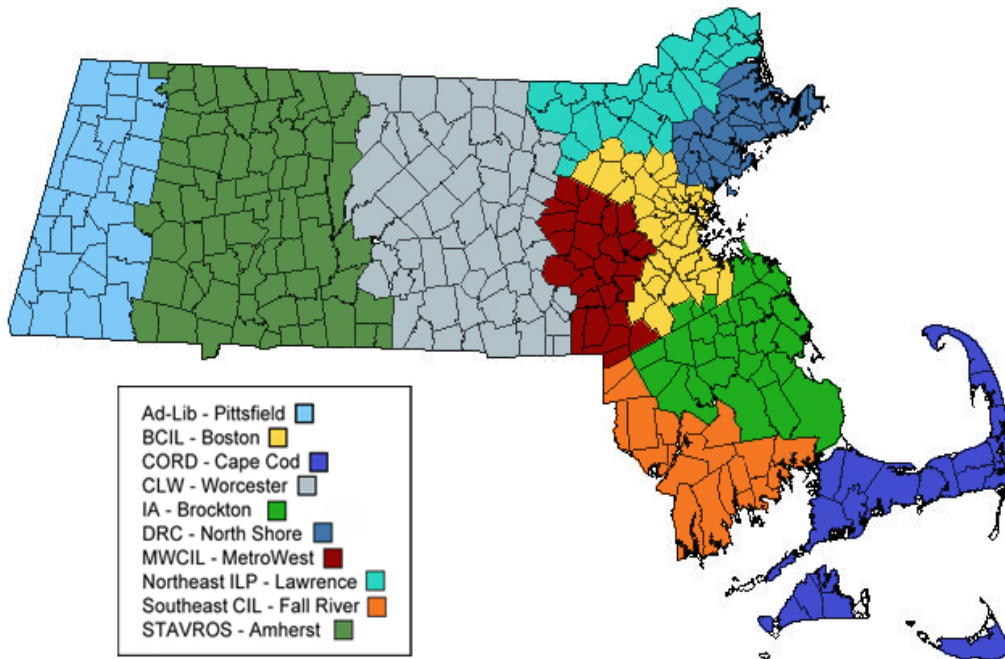
Part C and State IL funds: Funds will be split 12 ways, with the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) receiving 3 shares to address their larger service area, and the remaining 9 CILs receive 1 share each.

Part B funds: the DSE will retain 18%, the SILC will retain 30%, and the remaining funds will be distributed equally amongst the CILs and Deaf Inc for client services.

The SPIL also includes a process for what happens if a CIL closes. Learn more on pages 17 - 18.

Statewide Services

All cities and towns in Massachusetts are served by an independent living center.



Underserved individuals with disabilities

“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.”

Some underserved groups identified in the SPIL include:

- Rural areas, and other areas outside major cities and towns

- Individuals with psychosocial or mental health disabilities
- Individuals with with substance abuse disorders
- Immigrant and non-English-speaking communities
- Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- BIPOC populations and other multiply marginalized populations (including multiply disabled people and LGBTQ+ disabled people).

For more details about underserved individuals, please see pages 12 - 13

Other Section of The SPIL

- Section 4 explains the responsibilities of the DSE.
 - The DSE distributes Part B and Part C federal funds to CILs, Deaf Inc, and MCB, following the process laid out in the SPIL.
 - MRC has oversight responsibilities for funds received by the SILC and CILs.
 - Learn more on pages 20-25.
- Section 5 explains how the SILC is appointed and funded
 - The responsibilities of the SILC, including developing and monitoring the SPIL, are described.
 - The SILC is independent of a state agency.
 - Learn more on pages 25-28
- Section 6 is a legal section. It explains that:
 - The SILC is authorized to submit the SPIL
 - The SILC and the CILs will carry out the provisions in the SPIL
 - The DSE will provide the administration authorized by the SPIL
 - Learn more on pages 28-29.
- Section 7 reviews the assurance of the DSE (pages 29-30).
- Section 8 reviews the assurances of the SILC (pages 30-33).
- Section 9 is the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the CIL Directors.