

# MASILC

## Training Series

### SILC Duties and Responsibilities

Developed with material from ILRU



# History of Centers for Independent Living

- 1972: First Independent Living Center in Berkeley, CA
- 1974: Inspired by Berkely, activists form Boston Center for Independent Living and Stavros Center for Independent Living.
- 1978: the federal Rehabilitation Act was amended to include Title VII which for the first time provided federal funding for the development of a national network
- Statewide advisory councils are formed to coordinate CILs across each state

# Rehabilitation Act of 1973

## The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“the Rehab Act” or “the Act”)

- First major federal legislation to prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in federal employment
- Re-authorized and amended every few years
  - WIOA - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (amendments)
  - New Regulations for Title VII of the Act (the IL section) went into effect November 26, 2016.
- “The purpose of Title VII of the Act is to promote a philosophy of independent living (IL), including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, in order to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with disabilities, and to promote the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of American society...”

# History of SILCs

Before 1992, statewide advisory councils had no authority to set the direction of Independent Living in the State

In the 1992 re-authorization of the Rehabilitation Act, SILCs were formed so that planning for IL would happen

- On a statewide level
- Meet regularly
- Would be consumer-controlled
- Had authority, on an equal footing with the DSE

# SILC Statutory Duties, Authorities, and Limitation

The Act specifically identifies:

- Five Duties that the SILC **must** carry out
- Three Authorities the SILC **may** conduct
- One Limitation placed on the SILC –what the SILC **can't** do

**All activities of the SILC must fall within these duties, authorities, and limitation, consistent with the SPIL.**

# 5 Duties

1. Develop the SPIL
2. Monitor, review and evaluate the SPIL
3. Meet regularly – open meetings
4. Submit reports, including 704 reports
5. Coordinate activities with other entities that provide services similar to, or complementary to, IL Services

# Duties 1 & 2:

## SPIIL Development and Evaluation

- How does SPIIL development happen? How are CILs involved?
- How has the SILC determined it will monitor, review and evaluate SPIIL implementation? How has the SILC determined it would like the CILs and/or DSE to play a role in this process?

# Duty 5:

## Coordination

Coordinate activities with other entities that provide services similar to, or complementary to, IL Services

Who do we coordinate with?



# Authorities: Activities the SILC may engage in

1. In order to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities, work with centers for independent living to coordinate services with public and private entities
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. **Conducting systemic advocacy will be completed under this authority.**

# Authority 1:

>> Slide 12  
What are some activities the SILC is conducting/has conducted to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities?

# Authority 2:

«Slide 18»

In what ways has the SILC conducted resource development to support the activities identified in the SPIL? For the IL Network?

# Limitation

Not engage in activities that constitute the direct provision of IL services to individuals, including the IL core services; and § 1329.15

- The SILC may provide contact information for the nearest appropriate CLL.

# SILC Indicators and Assurances

- Indicators and Assurances further outline steps the SILC should take to make sure the law is followed.
- Indicators include policies that should be in place and actions to be taken on a regular basis
- Assurances are signed off in the SPIL

# Indictators

1. SILC must have written policies including
  - Application & recommendation process
  - Conflict of interest
  - Public meetings
  - Notice of meetings
  - Executive session procedures
  - Reasonable accommodation requests for SILC meetings
  - Method of getting public input, developing, reviewing and evaluating implementation of State Plan
  - Verifying Centers are eligible to sign State Plan

# Indicators

2. SILC maintains regular communication with appointing authority
3. SILC maintains individualized training plans
4. SILC receives public input into the State Plan
5. SILC monitors, reviews and evaluates State Plan
6. SILC resource plan includes sufficient funds for council expenses

# Questions & Comments



# Resources

- ILRU SILC Guidebook:
  - <https://www.ilru.org/sites/default/files/SILC%20Guidebook.pdf>
- SILC Indicators
  - <https://acl.gov/sites/default/files/about-acl/2020-06/SILC%20Indicators%209.2017.pdf>

## Additional ILRU Trainings

- <https://www.ilru.org/topics/silc-roles-responsibilities>