

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NYSILC)
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)
2014, 2015, and 2016

Public Notice

Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, provides the authority for the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC), New York State Education Department/Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES - VR) and New York State Office of Children and Family Services - Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) to seek public input on priority needs related to disability issues and use it to guide the development of the next three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL is a plan to improve Independent Living (IL) services in the State for individuals with disabilities. It also helps to identify the needs and priorities of the consumers, providers, and other stakeholders involved in the network to help identify common strategies. The State Plan is a tool that ultimately directs the use of Federal IL funding.

Public Hearings

- October 4, 2012, 3:30-5:30 pm, **Bronx Independent Living Services**, 4419 Third Avenue, Suite 2C Bronx, NY 10457.
- October 9, 2012, 4:00-6:00 pm, **Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley**, Lecture Hall, 15-17 Third Street, Troy, NY 12180.
- October 11, 2012, 2:00-4:00 pm, **Northern Regional Center for Independent Living**, 210 Court Street, Suite 107 Watertown, NY 13601.
- October 16, 2012, 2:00-4:00 pm, **Independent Living of Niagara County**, 746 Portage Road Niagara Falls, NY 14301. *Video-conferencing capability is possible with compatible equipment and connection. Contact the center in advance for details. (716) 284-4131.*

Targeted SPIL Hearings at Public Events

- August 7, 2012, **Youth Power Annual Statewide Conference**, Holiday Inn Express, Albany, NY.
- September 7, 2012, 10:00-11:00 am, **NYSILC Full Council Meeting**, Troy Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY, 12180. *Telephone conferencing is available. Contact the NYSILC office in advance for details (518) 427-1060 (Voice & TDD). If needed, a web-based captioning service can be requested.*
- September 21, 2012, **NYAPRS Annual Conference**, Hudson Valley Resort & Conference Center, Kerhonkson, NY.
- October 23-24, 2012, **CDPAANYS Annual Conference**, Hilton Garden Inn, Troy, NY. (Awaiting final confirmation).
- October 26, 2012, **Self-Advocacy Association of NYS Annual Conference**, Albany Marriott, Wolf Road, Albany, NY.

The public hearings are open to the entire community. The targeted SPIL hearings at public events require registration and participation per conference guidelines. All hearings will be held in locations accessible to people with disabilities. Materials will be provided in alternative formats. For further information, contact NYSILC at (518) 427-1060 (Voice & TTY) or at 1 (888) 4-NYSILC (Toll Free Voice for New York State Only). If you cannot attend any of the public hearings, you can submit written comments to NYSILC before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, October 31, 2012. Comments can be sent via mail to NYSILC, 111 Washington Avenue, Suite 101, Albany, NY 12210, faxed to (518) 427-1139, or e-mailed to bradw@nysilc.org. Comments can also be sent by visiting the NYSILC website at www.nysilc.org. Click and follow the menu options provided on the home page for "SPIL Comments."

Focus groups will also be encouraged at various CILs in the Statewide network that chose to participate.

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STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)
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SPIL Facilitation Outline

The New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) is an independent, non-for-profit, Federally-mandated State council with the primary responsibility to jointly develop, monitor, and evaluate the three-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL is a plan to improve Independent Living (IL) services in the State for individuals with disabilities. It also helps to identify the needs and priorities of the consumers, providers, and other stakeholders involved in the network to help identify common strategies. The State Plan is a tool that ultimately directs the use of Federal IL funding. The council is currently in the formulation of its next three-year state plan and would like your input on some of the following SPIL sections and related questions.

1. General Questions/Needs Assessment (NA): NYSILC conducted a Needs Assessment in 2012. It asked four key questions:

- What geographic areas are most in need of additional IL services?
 - As a result of assigning a relative ranking (based on the lowest percentage of people with disabilities who are accessing IL services and the highest potential demand for IL services if individuals left institutions), the following counties were identified as most in need: Livingston, Bronx, New York, Queens, Suffolk, Wyoming, Kings, Yates, Orleans, and Ontario.
 - Are you aware of data that supports any unserved/underserved areas not identified?
- What underserved ethnic, minority and disability communities are most in need of IL services?
 - As a result of comparing network service data with ACS data, the Hispanic and Asian communities, along with individuals with sensory and multiple disabilities were most underserved. The survey also identified veterans, homeless, and immigrant populations with disabilities as being in highest need.
 - Are you aware of data that supports any underserved populations not identified?
 - How can CIL's best conduct outreach to underserved populations? What has worked in your community?
- What are the most important unmet service needs for New Yorkers with disabilities that are or wish to live independently?
 - The Needs Assessment statewide survey of consumers asked among other questions:
 - What are the most challenging issues you face day to day?
 - (Highest rated: Finances/paying bills, Transportation, Employment, Health care, Housing)
 - What services do you use that are most important for you to live independently? (Highest rated: Transportation, Medical/health services, Benefits assistance/advice) Advocacy, Employment)
- What are the most important needs that the SILC should address to strengthen New York's Independent Living network?
 - The Needs Assessment statewide survey of the center network asked among others questions:
 - What would make it easier for you to access services at your local Independent Living Center?

(Highest rated: Expand services, Advertise existing services, Expand transportation to/from center, Hire additional staff)

- What are the most significant barriers your local Independent Living Center faces to their existing services and potential expansion?

(Highest rated: Additional funding, Transportation for consumers, Additional space/infrastructure, Increase awareness of ILC services).

- What critical service does your local Independent Living Center want to start or expand?

(Highest rated: (Advocacy, Benefits advisement/legal services, Vocational services, Architectural barrier services)

2. Use of Title VII, Part B Funds: These funds are resource oriented. In previous SPIL's, monies were used for purchase of IL services, technology acquisition, targeted fund development, targeted outreach, and best practice exchanges. The current SPIL prioritizes systems advocacy, technical assistance and training and conference opportunities. Approximately \$925,000 is available on an annual basis. See the attach list for the current SPIL objectives (as amended).

- With the needs of consumers and centers identified, what projects should be prioritized with the available resources?
- Are there projects currently funded under the SPIL that should be continued?
- What new projects should be considered which haven't been mentioned that address a significant need of individuals with disabilities, the center network, or both?

3. Use of Title VII, Part C Funds: These funds are for center operations. Fifteen CIL's presently receive twenty-four grants totaling over \$4 million. Please respond to the following questions based on your knowledge and experience.

- How can the SPIL encourage the maintenance and growth of a statewide network of CIL's?
- How should the SPIL best address the infusion of short-term federal funds to the network of CIL's (i.e., stimulus funds)?

4. Open Comments:

Additional comments can be sent via mail to NYSILC, 111 Washington Avenue, Suite 101, Albany, NY 12210, faxed to (518) 427-1139, or e-mailed to nysilc@nysilc.org. Comments can also be sent by visiting the NYSILC website at www.nysilc.org.

Current SPIL (FFY 2011-2013) Objectives, as amended

- **Objective 1:** At a total SPIL cost of \$1,173,368 \$391,956 Year 1, \$391,456 Year 2, \$389,956 Year 3), support the basic operation of NYSILC each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 2:** At a total SPIL cost of \$312,500 (\$103,500 Year 1, \$103,500 Year 2, \$105,500 Year 3), CBVH will provide services on a fee-for-service basis to eligible individuals who are legally blind to enable them to meet independent living goals each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 3:** At a total SPIL cost of \$1,296,000 (\$350,000 Year 1, \$473,000 Year 2, \$473,000 Year 3), support a Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) by developing local partnerships and coalitions, and engaging in community education about issues impacting people with disabilities, resulting in increased visibility about Independent Living, and at least one significant statewide system change each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 4:** At a total SPIL cost of \$12,500 (\$12,500 Year 3), support direct consulting services and coaching to the Statewide network of centers through September 30, 2013. Note: extended to next SPIL \$12,500 in 2014 and 2015.
- **Objective 5:** At a total SPIL cost of \$12,000 (\$4,000 each year), encourage youth leadership by providing sponsorships for youth to attend and participate in IL conference and national disability youth leadership trainings each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 6:** At a total SPIL cost of \$5,000 (\$5,000 Year 3), support an annual training opportunity to promote the implementation of the Nursing Facility Transition and Diversion waiver in a manner consistent with the Independent Living (IL) philosophy, including best practices and technical assistance, through September 30, 2013. Note: extended to next SPIL \$5,000 in 2014.
- **Objective 7:** At a total SPIL cost of \$45,000 (\$45,000 Year 3), support a statewide consumer-controlled, non-partisan Disability Voting Rights Network for voters with disabilities to promote voter registration, voter education and use of the new accessible voting systems through September 30, 2013. Note: extended to next SPIL \$45,000 in 2014.
- **Objective 8:** At a total SPIL cost of \$59,000 (\$19,500 Year 1, \$20,000 Year 2, 19,500 Year 3), support statewide strategic media services and promote public awareness about IL in multiple media markets each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 9:** At a total SPIL cost of \$25,000 (\$25,000 Year 1), support a statewide consumer satisfaction survey regarding the satisfaction with the services of the CIL network by September 30, 2011.
- **Objective 10:** At a total SPIL cost of \$30,000 (\$10,000 per year), support a consultant to establish an outcome-based evaluation SPIL plan that the council can implement and operationalize, including its use and development towards the next SPIL, each year through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 11:** At a total SPIL cost of \$240,000 (\$120,000 Years 2 and 3), provide four \$30,000 capacity building grant opportunities for three years in a competitive Request For Proposal (RFP) to Centers for Independent Living (CILs) and Service Centers for Independent Living (SCILs) each year through September 30, 2013. Note: extended to next SPIL \$120,000 in 2014.
- **Objective 12:** At a total SPIL cost of \$75,000 (Years 2 and 3), designate funds for the purposes of developing technical specifications and establishing a database to compile, analyze, and interpret data from the statewide network through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 13:** At a total SPIL cost of \$20,000 (\$20,000 Year 3), provide support for a statewide independent living training conference through September 30, 2013.
- **Objective 14:** At a total SPIL cost of \$20,000 (\$10,000 Years 2 and 3), provide support for an annual cross-disability statewide youth leadership and independent living training conference for young adults with disabilities. Expand conference attendance through needs-based subsidies, increase connection with members to the statewide CIL network, and increase cross-disability and cultural membership through September 30, 2013.

No Part B funds will be utilized to support General CIL Operations.

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NYSILC Accomplishments

The New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC) is a non-for-profit, Federally-mandated State council. NYSILC's mission is to advance Independent Living philosophy through the network of CILs and statewide partnerships by engaging in or supporting research, education, employment, community organizing, advocacy, and systems reform. Its vision is to be a champion of systemic change promoting opportunities and full participation in all aspects of society for people with disabilities. NYSILC has achieved several accomplishments consistent with its overall mission and vision. They are documented below.

Public Awareness. Public awareness activities can range from surveys to the issuance of reports to news releases and the distribution of products and news clips - all to raise awareness about our Independent Living, disabilities, and related issues.

- CIL Statewide Consumer Satisfaction Survey (2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010).
- REPORT: *Voting Machine Accessibility Survey* (2003).
- REPORT: *HOME SWEET HOME...unless you don't have a home! A look at the housing crisis for people with disabilities in New York State and recommendations for reform* (2004).
- REPORT: *A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE: Zogby voting trends report* (2004).
- REPORT: *WHERE THE RUBBER FAILS TO MEET THE ROAD: A look at the negative impact transportation gaps have on the life of New Yorkers with disabilities and recommendations for reform* (2005).
- REPORT: *Complaints Reveal Widespread Patterns of Voting Discrimination Against New Yorkers with Disabilities* (2005).
- REPORT: *Voting Machine Accessibility Survey: Let the buyer...and disabled voter...beware!* (2005)
- Voting trends of New Yorkers with disabilities conducted with the Siena Research Institute and Zogby International (2006).
- Surveys completed: Needs assessment, housing needs, CIL technology & equipment (2007).
- REPORT: *NYSILC Focus Group Voting Machine Testing Report* (2008).
- REPORT: *2008 Disability Travel Survey* (2008).
- 2008 Post Election Polls/Voting Trends of people with disabilities and report (2009).
- Post production of voting rights documentary completed by DGI Video and WNYILP (2009).
- Strategic media initiative leading to distribution of disability news clips to list serves and social media outlets and support for CIL media plans and varied strategies increase awareness about center, IL, services, and people with disabilities (2011).

Technical Assistance and Training. Technical assistance and training activities have been provided on a wide variety of topics and in workshop settings as well as product distribution.

- Grant Writing Workshop (1999).
- Private Sector Funding Workshop (1999).
- Planning resources provided to the network: New York State Grants Guide and calendar, New York State Policymakers Guide, Strategic Planning Workbook, and Marketing Workbook (1999).
- Development and distribution of individually tagged PSA Media Kits for the statewide network (2000).
- Distribution of DVD Version of IL History & Philosophy product (2003).
- Nursing Facility Transition 101 training (2005).
- Development and distribution of a Financial Reference Guide for statewide network (2006).
- Statewide disability vote training event held in Albany - Lt. Governor Paterson the keynote speaker (2007).

- Housing Institute statewide training held in Albany - participants given IL housing specialists manual (2007).
- Affordable, accessible, and integrated housing publications distributed to statewide network of centers (2008).
- Twelve to sixteen young adult training sponsorships per year to support leadership development (2011-2012).
- Distribution and training of Kindle 3's for the statewide network of CILs with accessible features and three non-profit management e-books (2012).

Systems Advocacy. In cooperation with other advocates, agencies, councils, and elected officials, the council worked with the Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) and the CIL network to achieve the following systems advocacy accomplishments:

- Passage of the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) (1999).
- Support of the NYS Attorney General signing on to the State of Minnesota's amicus brief in Garrett vs. Alabama that defends Title II of the ADA under the 14th Amendment (2000).
- Reversal of a NYS Code Council decision to call for 100% adaptability in the construction of new apartments (2001).
- Passage of a Medicaid Buy-In program (2002).
- Passage of a Most-Integrated Setting Coordinating Council State law (2002).
- Budget restoration/SSI COLA (2003).
- Support of NYS Attorney General Eliot Spitzer signing on to the State of Minnesota's amicus brief in Tennessee v. Lane before the U.S. Supreme Court (2003).
- Accessible voting rights progress:
 - NYSILC Article 78 lawsuit against the NYS Board of Elections in State Supreme Court to confirm appointment to the advisory committee to select voting machines per state statute (2005).
 - USDOJ lawsuit of New York State for HAVA violations. NYSILC submits evidence and affidavits (2006).
 - NYSILC drafted a proactive polling place access bill and memo. NYS Senator William Larkin introduced the bill in the Senate before the end of the legislative session (2007). Assemblyman Cahill introduced the "same as" bill in the Assembly (2008). After it passed both houses, Governor Paterson vetoed it based on fears promoted by the City of New York (2009). Bills were reintroduced the next session. Issues were addressed. It passed both houses. The Governor signed it into law (2010).