

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NYSILC)  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR  
STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

2011, 2012, and 2013

Public Notice

The New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC), in conjunction with the New York State Education Department/Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID) and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services/Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH), is seeking your input on the development of its next three-year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). Three open public hearings will be held at the following locations:

Open Public Hearings

- ROCHESTER: October 7, 2009, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Center for Disability Rights (CDR), 497 State Street, Rochester NY, 14608. TEL (585) 546-7510 voice & TTY.
- MANHATTAN: October 15, 2009, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, The Fund for the City of New York, 121 Avenue of the Americas, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Wheelchair entry, 555 Broom Street, New York, NY 10013. TEL (212) 925-6675 V.
- UTICA: October 26, 2009, 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM, Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL), 409 Columbia Street, Utica, NY 13503-0210. TEL (315) 797-4642, TTY (315) 797-5837.

Targeted SPIL Hearings at Public Events \*

- September 11, 2009, 2:15 pm-3:15 pm, **Self-Advocacy Association of NYS Annual Conference**, Albany Marriott, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12205. (518) 458-8444.
- September 17, 2009. **NYAPRS Annual Conference**, The Hudson Valley Resort, 400 Granite Road, Kerkhonkson, NY 12446. (845) 626-8888.
- September 25, 2009, 9:00 am-12:00 pm, **IL/Veterans with Disabilities Forum**, Hilton Garden Inn, 62 New Scotland Avenue, Albany, NY 12208. (518) 396-3500.
- Early October, 2009, Site and time TBD, **Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Association of NYS** membership focus group.

\*Participation at targeted SPIL hearings at public events by conference registration and attendance only.

The public hearings are open to the public. The targeted SPIL hearings at public events require registration 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 Friday, October 30, 2009. 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](mailto:nysilc@nysilc.org). Comments can also be sent by visiting the NYSILC website at [www.nysilc.org](http://www.nysilc.org). Click and follow the menu options provided on the home page for "SPIL Comments."

*NYSILC is an independent federally mandated state council that advances 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.*

---

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NYSILC)  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR  
STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)  
2011, 2012, and 2013

Introduction

Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, provides financial assistance to States for providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living (IL) services, to develop and support statewide

networks of Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and to improve working relationships among State IL Services (SILS) programs, CILs, Statewide IL Councils (SILCs), programs funded under other titles of the Act, and other programs that address the needs of individuals with significant disabilities funded by Federal and non-Federal authorities.

The purpose of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act (Chapter 1) is to promote a philosophy of independent living, which includes 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 significant disabilities; and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society.

For a State to participate in the programs under Chapter 1, it must submit to the U.S. Department of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) an approvable State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). No Federal funds or other benefits can be made available under this Chapter unless the SPIL conforms to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements. This SPIL reflects the State's commitment to carry out the programs in compliance with the provisions in the plan, the application for funds under the part B, Chapter 1 program, and also the State's planning and implementation activities related to various administrative and operational considerations associated with the plan. As such, the approved SPIL will serve as one of the key elements in RSA's monitoring of the State's performance in carrying out the assurances to which the State commits itself in submitting the State plan.

NYSILC, VESID, and CBVH are authorized by the Rehabilitation Act as amended to jointly develop the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The current process reflects the State Plan Partner's effort to obtain input from various individuals and groups through varied methods and networks necessary to formulate the upcoming SPIL for 2011-2013. Once approved, NYSILC is responsible to implement, monitor and evaluate the SPIL.

---

NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NYSILC)  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THREE-YEAR  
STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

2011, 2012, and 2013

SPIL Facilitation Outline

NYSILC is an independent federally mandated state council that advances 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. The council is currently in the formulation of its next three-year state plan and would like your input on some of the following questions.

1. 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 \$1.1 million is available on an annual basis. In terms of the current SPIL's general Part B expenditures, it is directed as follows: 51% statewide systems advocacy, 28% SILC operations, 9% CBVH services, and 12% other SPIL objectives.

- a. What is the best way to promote coordinated and effective systems advocacy addressing the needs of people with disabilities throughout New York State?
- b. What do you think are the top technical assistance and training needs of the statewide network?
- c. What is the best way to increase public awareness about CIL's and issues important to people with disabilities?
- d. What populations are currently unserved or underserved by the network of Centers? What is the best way CIL's can conduct outreach to these populations? What has worked well in your community?

e. Is it time for a summit of different disability organizations? If so, how could this best be achieved?

2. USE OF TITLE VII, PART C FUNDS: These funds are for center operations. Sixteen CIL's presently receive twenty-one grants totaling \$4 million. The previous SPIL identified a needs assessment process, which recommended a set of recommendations for the use of funds for the establishment of new CIL's. The current recommendations identify a downstate New York City need and an upstate unserved county need as well as outreach to specific target populations (i.e., minorities, youth, elderly, and veterans with disabilities).

a. How can the statewide network best use new Title VII, Part C funds?

b. How can NYSILC encourage the maintenance and growth of a statewide network of centers?

c. How should NYSILC best address the infusion of short-term federal funds to the network of CIL's?

3. DESCRIPTION OF EXTENT AND SCOPE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES.

a. With housing such a priority, what types of affordable, accessible and integrated housing initiatives could be supported to help increase the capacity of the CIL network?

b. What resources and strategies do CIL's need to effectively divert or transition people with disabilities out of institutional settings?

c. What resources or strategies could help the CIL network to connect their services better with veterans with disabilities?

d. What role should the SILC and CIL's play to develop leadership in the IL movement among all age groups?

e. What resources and strategies do the SILC and CIL's need to implement in order to impact voter registration and turn out people with disabilities?

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](mailto:nysilc@nysilc.org). Comments can also be sent by visiting the NYSILC website at [www.nysilc.org](http://www.nysilc.org).

Objectives to the current SPIL (2008-2010) can be referenced at the NYSILC website, [www.nysilc.org](http://www.nysilc.org). The listing will detail each of the fifteen SPIL objectives by number, budget amount, description, and duration (by year or years).

---

## NEW YORK STATE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL (NYSILC)

### NYSILC & Network Accomplishments

NYSILC is an independent federally mandated state council that advances 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. In terms of its vision, the council is 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.

**Funding and Resources.** Efforts have been made to attract resources for the network in addition to planning for the distribution for Federal IL ARRA stimulus funds.

- \$1 million dollar increase to the State Appropriation (2000).
- \$1.5 million dollar increase to the State Appropriation (1999).

**Public Awareness.** Public awareness activities can range from surveys to the issuance of reports to news releases and the distribution of an accessible voting rights documentary all to raise awareness about our issues.

- Completion of Voting Rights Documentary by DGI Video and WNYILP (2009).
- REPORT: 2008 Post Election Polls/Voting Trends of People with Disabilities (2009).
- CIL Statewide Consumer Satisfaction Survey (2008, 2006, 2004, 2002, 2000).
- REPORT: *2008 Disability Travel Survey* (2008).
- REPORT: *NYSILC Focus Group Voting Machine Testing Report* (2008).
- Surveys completed: Needs assessment, housing needs, CIL technology & equipment (2007).

- Voting trends of New Yorkers with disabilities conducted with the Siena Research Institute and Zogby International (2006).
- REPORT: *2005 Voting Machine Accessibility Survey: Let the buyer...and disabled voter...beware!* (2005)
- REPORT: *Complaints Reveal Widespread Patterns of Voting Discrimination Against New Yorkers with Disabilities* (2005).
- 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: *A DIFFERENT UNIVERSE: Zogby voting trends report* (2004).
- 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: *2003 Voting Machine Accessibility Survey* (2003).

**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.

- Affordable, accessible, and integrated housing publications distributed to statewide network of centers (2008).
- Housing Institute statewide training held in Albany – participants given IL housing specialists manual (2007).
- Statewide disability vote training event held in Albany – Lt. Governor Paterson the keynote speaker (2007).
- Development and distribution of a Financial Reference Guide for statewide network (2006).
- Nursing Facility Transition 101 training (2005).
- Distribution of DVD Version of IL History & Philosophy product (2003).
- Development and distribution of individually tagged PSA Media Kits for the statewide network (2000).
- 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).
- Private Sector Funding Workshop (1999).
- Grant Writing Workshop (1999).

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

- Accessible voting rights progress:
  - NYS Senator Addabbo introduces S.1058 in the Senate under the new majority in the Senate. Assemblyman Cahill introduces the “same as” bill A.584 in the Assembly to move the next version of the polling place access bill. The bill is amended in both houses, passed, and will be sent to the Governor for signature (2009).
  - NYS Assemblyman Kevin Cahill introduces a “same as” bill to the polling place access bill (S.6311) in the Assembly (2008).
  - NYS Senator William Larkin introduces S.6311 a proactive polling place access bill in the Senate based on the direct input of advocates (2007).
  - Through constant pressure, advocates help to guide and influence an updated court order that requires the state to have one Ballot Marking Device per polling place for 2008 (2007).
  - Advocates defeat an amendment to HR 811 that would have suspended the voting access rights of New Yorkers with disabilities under HAVA until 2010. The amendment got as far as Speaker Pelosi and the Chair of the Rules Committee (2007).
  - Advocates generate over 500 letters in five days and convince the NYSBOE to drop consideration of segregated use of Ballot Marking Devices at countywide accessible voting sites for people with disabilities including the use of affidavit ballots (2007).
  - Dismayed with the Federal Judges “Plan B” ruling, NYSILC and other plaintiffs file suit in Federal Court seeking intervention rights in the case represented by the firm Proskauer Rose LLP (2006).
  - USDOJ lawsuit of New York State for HAVA violations. NYSILC submits evidence and affidavits (2006).
  - NYSILC Article 78 lawsuit against the NYS Board of Elections in State Supreme Court. NYSILC is awarded an appointment to the advisory committee to select voting machines per state statute (2005).
- 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).
- Budget restoration/SSI COLA (2003).
- Passage of a Most-Integrated Setting Coordinating Council State law (2002).
- Passage of a Medicaid Buy-In program (2002).
- Reversal of a NYS Code Council decision to call for 100% adaptability in the construction of new apartments (2001).
- 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 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (2000).
- Passage of the federal Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) (1999).

### **Under 1.3A: SILC Resource Plan**

Objective 1: At a total SPIL cost of \$954,754 (\$309,032 Year 1)(\$318,032 Year 2)(\$327,690 Year 3), maintain support for the basic operation of NYSILC each year through September 30, 2010.

### **Under 1.3A: IL Services**

Objective 2: At a total SPIL cost of \$296,842 (\$98,000 Year 1)(\$101,000 Year 2)(\$97,842 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, 2010. It should be noted that CIL's with the appropriate expertise and capacity will be encouraged to provide these services on a fee-for-service basis. In Year 2, CBVH will develop a consumer satisfaction survey to be sent to individuals who received CBVH IL services. The survey will be provided in the consumer's preferred format. The results of the survey will be shared with NYSILC.

### **Under 1.3A: Other SPIL Activities**

Objective 3: At a total SPIL cost of \$30,000 (\$10,000/year), continue support for strategic media services to promote significant NYSILC and SPIL activities and issues through September 30, 2010.

Objective 4: At a total SPIL cost of \$75,000 (\$32,000 Year 1)(\$26,000 Year 2)(\$17,000 Year 3), maintain support and coordination with the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) of a Rapid Response Emergency Technical Assistance service to CIL's with significant operational difficulties that require remedy through September 30, 2010.

Objective 5: At a total SPIL cost of \$1,719,000 (\$573,000/year), maintain support and coordination for a Statewide Systems Advocacy Network (SSAN) initiative with NYAIL that results in at least one significant statewide system change each year through September 30, 2010. It should be noted that the SSAN will use a disability agenda developed by the NYS Independent Living network to guide its efforts.

Objective 6: At a total SPIL cost of \$75,000 (\$25,000/year), provide support to establish a community organizing initiative (priority issue) each year through September 30, 2010. It should be noted that this initiative, coordinated with NYAIL, will provide training, technical assistance, travel reimbursement and other support to four CIL's to enhance their capacities for grassroots disability rights organizing and leadership skills.

Objective 7: At a total SPIL cost of \$75,000 (\$25,000/year), work with an organization experienced with youth leadership development to increase youth involvement in Independent Living each year through September 30, 2010. It should be noted that the NYSILC Youth Leadership Subcommittee will help to guide this initiative.

Objective 8: At a total SPIL cost of \$45,000 (\$15,000/year), maintain support for an IL training academy with NYAIL to develop or provide at least two products or training opportunities each year, which help CIL's meet basic operational standards, performance, and quality assurance through September 30, 2010.

Objective 9: At a total SPIL cost of \$15,000 (\$5,000/year), develop or provide at least one specific product or training opportunity to CIL's on affordable, accessible, and integrated housing information or options (priority issue) for New Yorkers with disabilities through September 30, 2010.

Objective 10: At a total SPIL cost of \$40,000 (\$20,000 Year 1)(\$20,000 Year 3), support two annual conference opportunities with NYAIL to promote best practices among CIL's, advocates, consumers, other providers, and relevant stakeholders by September 30, 2008 and September 30, 2010.

Objective 11: At a total SPIL cost of \$15,000 (\$5,000/year), maintain support for the development of voter education information (priority issue) distributed statewide via email, list serves, and the SSAN non-partisan voter pledge database through September 30, 2010.

Objective 12: At a total SPIL cost of \$5,000 in Year 1 (2008), provide support to conduct a statewide travel survey to educate and assess the accessibility of the travel industry for New Yorkers with disabilities by September 30, 2008. It should be noted that the NYSILC Travel Subcommittee will help to guide this initiative.

Objective 13: At a total SPIL cost of \$19,000 in Year 2 (2009), provide support to conduct a statewide consumer satisfaction survey for the CIL network by September 30, 2009. It should be noted that NYSILC will distribute the statewide results to various networks and stakeholders. The DSU (VESID) will review specific survey results with each center.

Objective 14: At a total SPIL cost of \$1,500 in Year 3 (2010), provide support to conduct a follow up technology and equipment needs assessment to determine gaps faced by the statewide network of CIL's by September 30, 2010.

Objective 15: Based on the previously amended SPIL in 2006, provide \$137,500 in VESID Social Security Trust Funds (\$110,000 Year 1)(\$27,500 Year 2), to continue support for two peer-mentoring projects designed to expand IL services through September 30, 2009. It should be noted that these projects were identified during an RFP process conducted by the NYS Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) in cooperation with the DSU (VESID).

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