



Introduction

Maine State Independent Living Council (Maine SILC)
mainesilc.org

Development of the Three-Year
State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)
2017, 2018, and 2019

The Maine Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is a federally mandated council under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Federal and State governments provide financial assistance to States for providing, expanding, and improving the provision of Independent Living (IL) services, through statewide networks of Centers for Independent Living (CILs) (Alpha-One), and to improve working relationships among CILs, State Independent Living Services (SILS) programs, and Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs),

The purpose of the law 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.

Therefore, a State must submit a State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) to the U.S. Department of Education/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) for approval. 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 Independent Living Services, 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.

Federal statute requires that a "Statewide Independent Living Council" be established within a State agency. The Council shall:

- work with the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (as referred to in federal legislation), the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and other councils

as required to develop and sign the State Plan for Independent Living for the delivery of independent living services to people with disabilities;

- monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State Plan; communicate with the State Rehabilitation Council(s) about activities that address the common needs of specific disability populations and issues under federal laws,;

- not devote a substantial amount of its activity carrying on any propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.