

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for Northern Marianas for 2014-2016

General Information

Designated Agency Identification

State:

Northern Marianas

Agency:

Northern Marianas Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Div

Plan for:

2014-2016

Submitted in fiscal year:

2013

View grant [H169A100079](#) in the Grant Award screen.

Part I: Assurances

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind.

N/A

1.3 The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Act and is authorized to perform the functions outlined in section 705(c) of the Act in the State.

the CNMI Statewide Independent Living Council

1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL.

Yes

1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL.

Yes

1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.

Yes

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC Chairperson Steve Dutro and Magarita R. Olopai-Taitano, the OVR Director.

Section 2: SPIL Development

2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for:

- The provision of State independent living services;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
- Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities. Yes

2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. Yes

2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and SILC shall provide:

- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings;
- reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
- public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication. Yes

2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. Yes

2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective. Yes

2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act. Yes

Section 3: Independent Living Services

3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds. Yes

3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan mutually agreed upon by an appropriate staff member of the service provider and the individual, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that such a plan is unnecessary. Yes

3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about:

- the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act;
- the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and
- how to contact the CAP. Yes

3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements. Yes

Section 4: Eligibility

4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51. Yes

4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services. Yes

4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services. Yes

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers. Yes

5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate:

- with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act; and
 - in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.
- Yes

5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy. Yes

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act. Yes

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds. Yes

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. Yes

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by 34 CFR 364.35, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate. Yes

7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews. Yes

Section 8: Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6). Yes

Section 9: Signatures

As the authorized signatories, we will sign, date and retain in the files of the state agency(ies) and the Statewide Independent Living Council the Part I: Assurances, 1-8, and the separate Certification of Lobbying forms ED-80-0013 (available in [MS Word](#) and [PDF](#) formats) for the state independent living program (Part B) and the centers for independent living program (Part C).

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2013.

Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

Name

Stephen Dutro

Title

SILC Chairperson

Signed?

Yes

Date signed

00/00/2013

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano

Title

Director

Signed?

Yes

Date signed

00/00/2013

Section 9: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind?

No

Name

N/A

Title

Signed?

No

Date signed

Part II: Narrative: Section 1 - Goals, Objectives and Activities

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities 1.1 Goals and Mission

Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the SPIL administered by that agency.

Goal Name:

State`s IL Program and Services

Goal Description:

The State Plan for Independent Living has been developed in a collaborative effort of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), the CNMI Center for Living Independently (CLI), Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (DSU), and input from persons with disabilities residing in the CNMI. The overall mission of the entities forming the independent living service delivery network in the CNMI is to promote independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of such individuals into the mainstream of community life.

The mission of the Council is to serve individuals with significant disabilities in the CNMI and to promote independence, productivity, integration and inclusion of such individuals into society. The Council supports the independent living philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and advocacy.

The goals for the Fiscal Years 2014 – 2016 are to:

Goal 1) Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement and individual and systems advocacy.

Goal 2) Enhance and expand the four core IL services (Information & Referral, IL skills training, Peer counseling, and systems advocacy), and transportation services in a manner that will maximize benefits to the greatest number of individuals with significant disabilities.

1.2 Objectives

1.2A. Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
State`s IL Program	Objective 1.1: : Conduct workshops, seminars, and educational activities to discuss and promote the	10/01/2013	09/30/2016

and Services	philosophy and advocacy of IL services. (The DSU in collaboration with SILC and CLI will conduct the activities to achieve the SPIL goals and objectives). Activities will be accomplished during the 2014-2016 cycle as required. Progress will be assessed annually.		
State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 1.2: Provide information to the community via radio and television (i.e. Chamorro and Carolinian speaking), and disseminate brochures in native languages (Chamorro and Carolinian) to reach those unserved and underserved populations. The DSU in collaboration with the SILC and CLI will work on strategies. SILC will host community forums annually to include statewide disability-related networks for the purpose of assessing community independent living needs and collaboration in projects. Forums will be held in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in a location easily accessed by independent living consumers. Activities such as awareness of how the four core services will empower our people with significant disabilities will be accomplished during the 2014-2016 cycle and will be reviewed for progress annually, as required.	10/01/2013	09/30/2016
State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 1.3: Establish and/or expand network communications with service providers and policy makers to address IL services. The CLI will develop a dialogue of communication with services providers for individuals with disabilities that need IL services. SILC will meet with Policy Makers (Executive and Legislative Branch) to address issues that individuals with disabilities encounter and are challenged with, especially the issue on transportation. (These activities will be accomplished during the 2014-2016 cycle)	10/01/2013	09/30/2016
State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 2.1: Ensure that the SILC members and CLI are knowledgeable about IL services by participating and/or attending national and regional trainings and conferences to effectively promote and support strategies that impact independent living services. The DSU will ensure that appropriate information is disseminated from participants to national training/conferences. That presentation on what will be shared nationally shall be reviewed by SILC Executive Committee prior to any transmittals or presentations by consumers or participants.	10/01/2013	09/30/2016
State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 2.2: Allocate funds through contract with CNMI-CLI to provide transportation services and the four core IL services, consumer information programs, and community awareness materials to empower consumer	10/01/2013	09/30/2016

with significant disabilities to enable them to become independent and productive in the community. (The DSU, in collaboration with the SILC, will allocate funds to the CLI to provide the core IL services. The DSU will ensure that funding support is allocated to support the core services to be provided by the CLI. These activities will be accomplished during the 2014-2016 cycle and will be review annually.)

State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 2.3: Coordinate with CLI in distribution of Independent Living Services Resource guide to service providers and communities for the purpose of providing information and referral for IL services. (CLI will be responsible in distribution of ILS Resource Guide and will review annually for updates)	10/01/2013	09/30/2016
State`s IL Program and Services	Objective 2.4: : SILC and CLI to develop outreach strategies that will enhance the ability of CLI to deliver services on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. (SILC and CLI will be responsible to develop outreach strategies that will enhance the ability of CLI for effective delivery of services with the partnership support of OVR. This will be accomplished during the 2014-2016 cycle as required. Progress will be assessed annually.	10/01/2013	09/30/2016

1.2 Objectives

1.2B Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

In preparation for development of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), the DSU and the Statewide Independent Living Council held three public hearings to solicit input from individuals with disabilities and other interested community members. These hearings were conducted in [Saipan on 4/9/13](#), [Tinian on 5/13/13](#), and [Rota on 5/15/15](#). Other opportunities for input included public comment at the regularly scheduled meetings of the council. Information obtained from public comments indicates the need for continuing targeted outreach. The community including people with disabilities emphasized the issues of geographic locations for people that are not able to travel or leave their homes because of transportation problems or other reasons. The populations designated for targeted outreach efforts are people with physical or mental health disabilities and ethnic minority groups with disabilities on the islands of Tinian and Rota and rural areas of Saipan. DSU VR counselors conduct monthly trips to the islands of Tinian and Rota. They conduct outreach to older individuals who have developed age-related disabilities and individuals with the most significant disabilities who require the provision of independent living services. The Executive Director of the CNMI CIL also travels to Tinian and Rota to participate in consumer information and community awareness programs as the outreach mechanisms. [In reference to Goal 2 of the SPIL the DSU in collaboration with SILC and CLI](#)

program will review the year 2011 OVR comprehensive needs assessment report, the 2010 CNMI Census data, and other demographic sources to identify and locate minority individuals with the most significant disabilities that are unserved and underserved. The data collected will be studied and used to develop strategic planning and evaluation efforts.

- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside

In order to increase the capacity of CNMI populations to accommodate individuals with diverse backgrounds cultures and disabilities, DSU and SILC will work to identify under- represented communities and provide technical assistance to better meet the needs of the diverse populations with disabilities. The DSU VR Caseworker conducts outreach orientation at the Office of Aging for individuals with age-related disabilities and home visitations with people who are seeking the provisions of independent living services. Local eye clinics also provide referrals of populations seeking assistance and services of assistive technology devices and/or skills training. Inter-island travels are also scheduled to provide services to unserved and underserved populations on Rota and Tinian.

- Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed

The SILC will work in collaboration with the CNMI CLI and the DSU to conduct annual visits to unserved and underserved minority population for outreach presentation and/or conduct public meetings/forums. The presentations of CLI program and IL services will be in accessible format and in cultural languages of Chamorro and Carolinian. Collaborate in community events such as the private health /home services program, Older Americans Month, Disabilities month, and/or legislative sessions to address the needs of IL services. Increase public awareness of independent living through outreach and education activities. Submit local appropriation request in an effort to expand CLI to unserved and underserved areas.

1.3 Financial Plan

Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the SPIL objectives.

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

Year 1 - 2014

Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	9405	17989	0	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C	0	0	92054	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)	0	0	0	0
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	0	0	0	0
Other Federal funds - other	0	0	0	0
Non-Federal funds - State funds	0	0	0	0
Total	9405	17989	92054	0
Year 2 - 2015				
Approximate funding amounts and uses				

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	9405	17989	0	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C	0	0	92054	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)	0	0	0	0
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	0	0	0	0
Other Federal funds - other	0	0	0	0
Non-Federal funds - State funds	0	0	0	0
Total	9405	17989	92054	0
Year 3 - 2016				
Approximate funding amounts and uses				

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B	9405	17989	0	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C	0	0	92054	0
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only	0	0	0	0

those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)

Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	0	0	0	0
Other Federal funds - other	0	0	0	0
Non-Federal funds - State funds	0	0	0	0
Total	9405	17989	92054	0

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B(1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

Part B funds of \$27,394 will support the activities listed in objectives 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 2.4 in part of 1.2A.

In collaboration with SILC, the DSU will allocate regular Part B funds to CLI to support the SPIL objectives such as the four core services and transportation.

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

\$9,405 of part B funds will be used for the SILC Resource Plan; and \$17,989 of part B funds will be allocated to the CNMI – CLI for transportation services and provision of the four core IL services

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

None

1.3B(4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.

None

1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the CIL Work Plans

1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

The CNMI Plan is consistent with Title VII, Chapter 1 of the Act and the CNMI-CIL has met the “Fourteen Assurances” and “Seven Standards” under Title VII, Part C.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

The Executive Director for the CNMI – CIL was a member of the SPIL ad-hoc committee of SILC and participated in the development of the SPIL objectives. A DSU representative also participated in the ad-hoc committee meetings.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.

A collaborative work frame among the DSU, Statewide Independent Living Council, and the CNMI CLI is in place to promote the purpose of the mission of the independent living services.

The SILC composition includes a representative from CNMI CLI and the State Rehabilitation Council. The DSU Director is an ex-officio member and she attends each meeting of the SILC executive committee as well as the general membership meetings.

The DSU provides support services to the SILC by allowing the use of facility space, access to office equipment, and the assistance from a designated DSU staff for secretarial and clerical services. The DSU, SILC, and the CNMI-CLI maintain a close working relationship and consult regularly by phone, meetings, and/or through e-mail

The DSU assists SILC by organizing and coordinating meetings that are scheduled on Saipan, Rota and Tinian for outreach and awareness activities. The DSU also coordinates council training sessions that are often held jointly with the SRC. The SILC and SRC members schedule and attend a joint general membership meeting once a year. The DSU and CNMI-CLI will continue to be represented and actively participate on the Council.

The DSU continues cooperation and collaboration with the SILC, CNMI-CLI, SRC, Developmental Disabilities Council, Disability groups/associations, Public School System, providers and other advocacy groups.

1.6 Coordination of Services

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

The DSU, SILC, and CNMI-CLI have work with various groups, associations, and organizations to promote and sustain independent living services. We believe that working with, planning for, and providing services to individuals with significant disabilities, in coordination with the Public School System Special Education Program, Developmental Disabilities Council, the CNMI Autism Society, Mental Health Planning Council, Marianas Housing Authority, Veterans Affairs Office, Social Security Office, and the CLI Support Groups will truly ensure that collaboration and coordination in service delivery occurs in a timely manner.

The provision of transportation services is a collaborative effort through a number of agencies which include the CNMI-CLI, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Public School System. Transportation specifically for this targeted population has been identified by the forgoing service providing agencies to persons with disabilities who fully understand that it is a critical and needed service that should be provided for individuals with disabilities.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind

Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind program and that the DSU determines to be effective.

N/A

Part II: Narrative: Section 2 - Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Scope and Extent

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/grants)
Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	No	Yes	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	No	Yes	Yes
Counseling services, including psychological,	No	Yes	Yes

psychotherapeutic, and related services			
Services related to securing housing or shelter, including services related to community group living, and supportive of the purposes of this Act and of the titles of this Act, and adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities)	No	No	No
Rehabilitation technology	No	Yes	No
Mobility training	No	Yes	No
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	No	No	No
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	No	Yes	No
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	Yes	Yes
Consumer information programs on rehabilitation and IL services available under this Act, especially for minorities and other individuals with disabilities who have traditionally been unserved or underserved by programs under this Act	No	Yes	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	No	Yes	Yes
Supported living	No	Yes	Yes
Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	No	Yes	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	No	Yes	Yes
Therapeutic treatment	No	Yes	yes
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	No	Yes	Yes
Individual and group social and recreational services	No	Yes	Yes
Training to develop skills specifically designed for youths who are individuals with significant disabilities to promote self-awareness and esteem, develop advocacy and self-empowerment skills, and explore career options	No	Yes	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	No	No	No

Services under other Federal, State, or local programs designed to provide resources, training, counseling, or other assistance of substantial benefit in enhancing the independence, productivity, and quality of life of individuals with significant disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	No	Yes	Yes
Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	No	Yes	Yes
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	No	No	No

2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the SPIL objectives identified in section 1.2.

The objectives identified in Section 1.2 include the priorities to address transportation services for individuals who are unable to attend social activities or attend to their needs because of lack of transportation or inaccessibility. These plans prioritize the provision of services to older individuals who have developed age-related disabilities and individuals with the most significant disabilities who require the provision of independent living services. Services to these individuals will include the following:

- Peer support to deaf and blind individuals
- Information and referral resources to enable the individual locate needed IL services
- Independent Living skills training
- Managed self-care services
- Public Transportation Assistance
- Counseling services
- Individual and systems advocacy
- Awareness of accessible housing
- Public awareness of IL through outreach and education activities

2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of IL services, specify the types

of IL services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

Part B funds in the amount of \$10,642 are allocated for transportation services based on its arrangement with the CNMI-CIL or other available CRPs available in the CNMI who meet the bidding requirements.

Funds will be allocated to support the four core services (Information and Referral, IL skills training, Peer Counseling, Individual and system change) through contracts with CNMI-CLI or other CRPs. Other services can still be provided through contracts will be coordinated closely with CNMI-CLI or other CRPs in order that the priority needs of IL consumers are well accommodated and addressed.

2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.

N/A

Part II: Narrative: Section 3 - Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network

Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.

There is only one Part C funded organization that operates in the CNMI, the CNMI Center for Living Independently (CNMI-CLI). This agency provides the four core services and through collaboration with the SILC provides transportation services, consumer information and community awareness programs.

The CLI services the entire CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) which includes all the three main inhabited islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

3.2 Expansion of Network

Describe the design for the further expansion of the network, including identification of the unserved and underserved areas in the State and the order of priority for serving these areas as additional funding becomes available (beyond the required cost-of-living increase).

The last public hearing held in Tinian (5/13/13) surfaced the critical need of a CLI to be established on the island which was identified as unserved and underserved by CLI because of its proximity and separation by water to the islands. To fill this void to provide IL services to the rural areas, monthly visits were made by OVR Staff and at times the CLI Director, when funding can be provided.

The island of Tinian, has a population of approximately 5,000 people with an estimate of 50 individuals with disabilities on the island. The DSU and SILC will continue to help expand the network of CLI statewide. The need for a center is there, which will certainly meet the needs of the unserved and underserved, however, with the limited funding resources available from the local and federal government, the DSU and SILC will make every effort to network with the Mayor of Tinian on delivery of IL services to the island.

Any additional IL Part C funds would be distributed to CLI.

3.3 Section 723 States Only

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SILC chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.

N/A

Part II: Narrative: Section 4 - Designated State Unit (DSU)

4.1 Administrative Support Services

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.

The DSU provides financial and technical assistance to the SILC in planning, budget development, and evaluation of the SILS program. A DSU staff was assigned to assist the SILC in secretarial and clerical work. Financial management support and record keeping activities are provided by the CNMI Department of Finance.

4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.

N/A

Part II: Narrative: Section 5 - Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan

5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII, section 101(a)(18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this SPIL.

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

For more information click the icon.

The three-year resource plan for the SILC is developed in conjunction with the DSU (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation). At every 4th general SILC meeting, the Council discussed funding needs to fund its mission. Once there is an agreement that the budget is acceptable to DSU (if there is adequate funding in Title I Section 110 funds), the DSU fiscal staff prepares the final budget for the Council to ratify at their 1st general membership meeting.

SILC does not have a staff; however, the DSU Director assigned a staff to assist the SILC in administrative, fiscal, and clerical work.

5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed.

- The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.

The SILC's resource plan is developed by the SILC Fiscal Officer and approved by the Council. The resource plan is developed at a level that enables the SILC to meet its obligation to compensate members, support meetings, council member trainings, enhance public awareness and participation in the SILC activities, etc. The SILC's funds for their resource plan are handled by the DSU to monitor use of these funds and accountability on disposition of funds. The DSU Fiscal Officer works closely with the SILC fiscal person to monitor the SILC's budget. All financial matters including payment of invoices are handled by DSU.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

The SILC will not accept and/or allocate any funds with conditions or requirements that may compromise the independence of the Council.

- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

SILC's resource plan reflects proper planning for operational needs while taking into account full use of available resources. The DSU and SILC rely on the continuation of federal funding under Title VII B to support the activities listed in this plan.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) SILC is an independent, autonomous organization that is independent of the DSU and all other State agencies. As provided for by the RSA Title VII, members of the Council are appointed by the Governor.

The DSU Director is a member of the SILC, however, as an ex-officio capacity.

5.3 Appointment and Composition

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The CNMI Governor appoints members of the Council after soliciting recommendations from a broad range of representatives of organizations representing individuals with disabilities and organizations interested in the needs of individuals with disabilities. The Governor ensures that various appointments such as business, CLI representative, people with disabilities as stated for to fulfill composition requirements pursuant to 34 CFR 364.21(b)-(f). SILC membership terms are regularly reviewed to ensure that no member serves more than two consecutive three-year terms.

The Chair is selected by a vote of the Council at the 1st general membership meeting. The terms, conditions, and duties of the Chair and Officers are stated in the SILC By-Laws.

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

- SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

The SILC does not have a Staff. A DSU staff was assigned to assist the SILC in administrative, fiscal and clerical works (coordinate meeting activities, put out public notices for the meeting, etc.).

- Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

N/A

Part II: Narrative: Section 6 - Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing

- Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

The SILC do not have a staff. The DSU assigns an OVR staff to assist the SILC in administrative and clerical duties. The DSU has delegated CLI for determination of an individual's eligibility for services, development of an IL plan for individuals who receive these services, and provision of the four core IL services.

- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of personnel able to communicate (1) with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille, or audio tapes and (2) in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.

The DSU has written policy that will address eligibility services, independent living plans, alternative communication needs, information about the Client Assistance Program (CAP), etc. The DSU and CLI promotes equal access and staff availability to the maximum extent feasible who are able to communicate with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication such as native language, sign language, Braille, etc. The DSU and CLI agreed to the assurances in the yearly 704 report.

- Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

The responsibility for complying with the service provider requirements is addressed in the CNMI-CLI grant application for Title VII Part C funds.

- Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

The DSU and CLI take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment of qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the ACT.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

- Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.

The DSU, SILC, and CLI fiscal policies adhere to the required fiscal control and fund accounting procedures that are necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through Part B and C of Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Act and comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

- Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.

The DSU and CLI maintain financial records that document and fully disclosed the amount, procured services and description, vendor' name, and other records determined to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit. The DSU, in partnership with SILC and CNMI-CLI annually submit a 704 Report. The Department of Finance with concurrence review of DSU submits the Financial Status Reporting Form SF269..

The DSU and CLI will grant access to the CNMI Public Auditor or other Auditing Firm all information necessary for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews regarding Part B and C funding activities.

- Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate

The DSU, in partnership with SILC and CNMI-CLI annually submit a 704 Report. The Department of Finance with concurrence review of DSU submits the Financial Status Reporting Form SF-269

- Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.

The DSU and CLI will grant access to the CNMI Public Auditor or other Auditing Firm all information necessary for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews regarding Part B and C funding activities.

6.4 Eligibility

- Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

The DSU and CNMI-CLI have policy in place which describe the eligibility criteria of an individual with a significant disabilities, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the State Independent Living Services and CNMI-CLI program. The DSU and CNMI-CLI made available information about IL services and other information regarding other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as requested.

- Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.

The DSU and CNMI-CLI made available information about IL services and other information regarding other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as requested.

- Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

The DSU and CNMI-CLI have policies in place which describe the eligibility criteria of an individual with a significant disabilities, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL services under the State Independent Living Services and CNMI-CLI program.

- Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

The DSU and CNMI-CLI determines eligibility of an applicant before providing IL services and apply eligibility requirement without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of disability.

- Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.

The DSU and CNMI-CLI do not impose any residency requirement to exclude from receiving IL services to any individual who is otherwise eligible for IL services.

6.5 Independent Living Plans

- Provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.

The provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan is mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disability and CLI, unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is not necessary.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

- Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.

Policies in place in providing information about the availability of the Client Assistance Program (CAP), the services provided under the CAP, and contact information to the individual in accessible format such as during the interview process, brochures, leaflet, etc.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

- Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.

Policies in place which describes the safeguard of confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and list of names of consumers of SILS and CLI program services.

Part II: Narrative: Section 7 - Evaluation

Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program.

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
State's IL Program	The SILC Executive Committee with the assistance of DSU will evaluate

and Services

the effectiveness of the SPIL by reviewing the implementation and completion status of the goals and objectives, consumer satisfaction survey results, and the 704 Annual Performance Report. Members of the SILC who represent service providers and other disability-related agencies will also participate in the evaluation. The evaluation will be conducted by DSU, SILC Executive Committee, and CLI on Special Executive Committee meeting after the close of the fiscal year, and to include update or revision as needed. A review of the goals and objectives will be conducted by SILC as part of their quarterly council meeting.

The consumer satisfaction survey is develop by the DSU and distributed to every consumer for their inputs on the level of satisfaction of services received.

Part II: Narrative: Section 8 - State-Imposed Requirements

8 State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

N/A

System Information

System information

The following information is captured by the MIS.

Last updated on:

05/08/2013

Last updated by:

chris

Completed on:

05/08/2013

Completed by:

chris

Approved on:

00/00/2013

Approved by: