




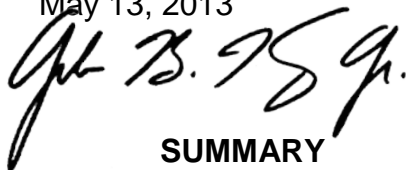
**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

**FROM:** Kevin G. Smith 

**SUBJECT:** New York Title VII State Plan for Independent Living 2014, 2015 and 2016.

**DATE:** May 13, 2013

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

  
**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Consent Agenda**

Should the Board of Regents approve the New York Title VII State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Required under the Rehabilitation Act of 1998 as amended.

**Proposed Handling**

This issue will come before the Regents Full Board for approval at its May 2013 meeting.

**Procedural History**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1998, as amended, requires that a jointly developed plan for the operation of a network of federally funded Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and the delivery of independent living services be developed every three years by the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) and the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC).

**Background Information**

The New York Title VII State Plan for Independent Living identifies goals, priorities and objectives for each of the three partners. It was last presented to the

Regents for approval in May 2010. The attached summarizes the content of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The complete SPIL is available in the Regents Office for your review.

**Recommendation**

The Board of Regents should approve the New York Title VII State Plan for Independent Living.

**Timetable for Implementation**

The new SPIL will take effect October 1, 2013 for FFY 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Attachment

## **SUMMARY OF THE NEW YORK TITLE VII STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR THE PERIOD 2014, 2015 AND 2016**

### **State Plan Process:**

The Rehabilitation Act, as amended, requires that a jointly developed plan for the operation of a network of federally funded Centers for Independent Living (CIL) and the delivery of independent living services is prepared every three years by the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES), the Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH) and the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC). The New York Title VII State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) identifies goals, priorities and objectives for each of the three partners. The SPIL may be amended on an annual basis if significant changes are necessary.

The SPIL consists of several preprints and attachments developed jointly by ACCES, CBVH and NYSILC that are required by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). The framework of the SPIL is determined by the most recent guidance provided by RSA.

ACCES, CBVH and NYSILC used the following means to obtain input in the formulation of the SPIL for 2014, 2015 and 2016:

- Seven public hearings were conducted at sites geographically dispersed throughout the State, including three within large scale disability related conferences, during the months of September and October 2012. NYSILC's State Plan Committee grouped over 500 comments received according to topic to formulate a preliminary draft SPIL.
- The statewide CIL network was also offered an opportunity to conduct focus groups facilitated utilizing the same outline used in the forums. Several CIL-specific forums were conducted in this manner.
- The SPIL formulation process included the acceptance of written public comments on a preliminary draft SPIL. These comments were used to further prioritize initiatives and funding support levels in a final draft released for a vote by the NYSILC membership on February 15, 2013.

In addition to the steps taken above, NYSILC used its web site to obtain comments via the internet. Over 400 comments were received to help formulate the SPIL draft using this modality.

ACCES, CBVH and NYSILC also reviewed and considered input received from a variety of alternate sources during the past few years. These sources included but were not limited to:

- Public comment made at NYSILC regularly scheduled meetings
- NYSILC's 2012 Needs Assessment
- Annual 704 CIL performance reports

NYSILC State Plan Committee members included voting members of NYSILC, representatives of the New York Association on Independent Living (NYAIL) and

representatives of ACCES and CBVH. The record of public input is available at the NYSILC office upon request.

The State Plan, formulated after consideration of all input, was further reviewed by the NYSILC at a regularly scheduled council meeting and adopted on March 15, 2013.

### **Adoption of the State Plan: Summary of Required Attachments**

The State Plan attachments describe ACCESS, CBVH and NYSILC plans and activities in a number of required areas. Highlights of the Plan include:

- Section 1.3A describes the resource plan for the operation of the SILC which calls for a reduction in operating costs of NYSILC, Inc. in order to support demands for critical projects listed below. Funds within NYSILC's budget include modest support for:
  - Youth Leadership Training Scholarship Program,
  - Statewide customer satisfaction survey of all CIL services,
  - Ongoing evaluation of SPIL outcomes and a variety of studies,
  - Other products necessary for the continued growth and quality improvement of the CIL network.

This section also describes the full scope of use of all Chapter I Part B discretionary funds which are administered by ACCES and are used primarily to fund CIL personnel to operate Statewide Systems Advocacy Network Center (SSAN) projects. The SPIL describes a continuation of the SSAN to include up to 14 projects selected through competitive application coordinated by ACCES aimed at achieving broad systemic and legislative goals guided by priorities in the 2012 needs assessment that are focused on enhancing the independence, integration and inclusion of people with disabilities as a group. As in the prior SPIL, ACCES will also complete the SSAN coordination function to provide training, technical assistance, data collection and support to the 14 network providers.

The SPIL increases the number of highly successful "Capacity Building" projects from four to eight, aimed at procurement of demonstrations of innovative outreach or service delivery models targeting unserved or underserved groups such as individuals with disabilities from Hispanic or Asian communities, youth with disabilities, minorities/immigrants with disabilities, veterans with disabilities or people with disabilities who are homeless.

- Section 3.2 provides a description of the use of Chapter I, Part C funds with emphasis on the process of distributing these funds and considerations for the expansion or contraction of the Federal CIL network if additional federal funds become available or are reduced.
- Section 5.3 provides a description of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) recruitment and appointment process and composition of the SILC.