**SUMMARY OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**OF THE**

**2014 -2016**

**UTAH STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

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 **UTAH STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

**2014-2016**

The Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA), under Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, requires the development of a three year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL provides the assurance that the Utah Independent Living (IL) Network, will operate its Independent Living Programs and Services according to the requirements under the Act and all applicable State laws and regulations. The development of this plan began a year ago and included statewide focus, groups numerous, public forums, consultation with stake holders and a public hearing. The results of this effort is the public's identification and approval of the goals and objectives that have been deemed as most important to achieve over the next three years.

The implementation of this plan will be the responsibility of the Utah Independent Living Network. This network is a partnership between the following organizations.

(1) The Six individual nonprofit Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that offer Independent Living services on a statewide basis to people with disabilities.

(2) The federally Designated State Unit (DSU) the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation (USOR), who monitor the program and assure compliance to federal and state regulations.

(3) The Utah Statewide Independent Living Council (USILC) is a citizen composed council who assist in the development and implementation of the SPIL.

Together, along with numerous other organizations, the Independent Living Network will work towards assuring individuals with disability in Utah have opportunities to access the services and supports they need that will enhance their equal and independent participation in their community according to their individual choice, abilities and circumstances.

The following pages will summarize and explain:

 1) the overall mission of the IL Network program,

 2) the goals that must be met to reach the mission and,

 3) the objectives that will be set and measured to determine if our goals are being achieved.

The narrative will also identify the expected measurable outcomes of each goal and objective and the methodology that will be used to demonstrate if and when the outcomes have been achieved.

**UTAH 'S INDEPENDENT LIVING NETWORK MISSION**

**People with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in their community according to their individual choice, abilities and circumstances.**

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**People with disabilities have equal opportunity to participate in their community according to their individual choice, abilities and circumstances.**

**GOAL 2**

People in Utah are aware of the issues disability presents to the individuals and the community; and the value of full participation in society

**GOAL 1**

People with disabilities in Utah receive effective and quality IL services through a statewide network of CILS

**GOAL 3**

Youth with disabilities are participating in their communities according to their choice, abilities and circumstances

**GOAL 4**

Utah Public Policy is reflective of the supports necessary for people with disabilities to participate independently in theircommunities.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**

People in Utah will have the opportunity to gain or increase their awareness of disability and disability issues

 of disability.Design disability awareness campaign

**OBJECTIVE 1.1**

Each year of the SPIL, Utah’s six CIL’s will provide statewide IL Services to a minimum of 20 percent new individuals compared to the statewide CSR count reported on the Federal 704 report, as demonstrated by the number of new CSRs compared to the total CSR number

**OBJECTIVE 3.1**

 The IL network will demonstrate continuous improvement in their service delivery, as evidenced by serving a larger number of youth than the previous year

**OBJECTIVE 1.2**

The CILs will continue to provide individualized IL services for people with significant disabilities that facilitate achievement of their individual independent living goals.

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**

People will speak for themselves, their family and community to Utah Policy makers

**OBJECTIVE 2.2**

People with disabilities have opportunities to participate in community activities

**OBJECTIVE 3.2**

 USILC will develop a Youth Advisory Council to provide input to the IL network to better meet the needs of youth with disabilities **OBJECTIVE 4.2**

The IL network is actively advocating with state policy makers in behalf of people with disabilities.

**OBJECTIVE 2.3**

The USILC website is a site where current information on disability services, activities and issues are available

**OBJECTIVE 4.2**

The IL network will provide state policy makers and Legislators with information to ensure they are aware of the needs and issues of people with disabilities and the solutions to address those needs.

**OBJECTIVE 3.3**

 USILC will support the creation and maintenance of an IL focused Youth Leadership training initiative across the state

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**OBJECTIVE 2.4**

 Identify and participate in current housing and transportation planning activities to develop strategies to enhance accessible and affordable housing and transportation options

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**Goal One: People with disabilities in Utah receive effective and quality IL services through a statewide network of CILS**

**Narrative:** The front line of IL service provision is the CILs. The Utah IL network has established six CILs in Utah with each serving a specific region of the state. Because of this network it is our belief that no area of the state is unserved, in terms of availability of IL services. This does not mean that Utah’s IL Network has an adequate level of resources to meet the IL needs of all people with disabilities. Indeed, it is estimated that our IL network is only reaching approximately one percent of people with disabilities in Utah. It simply means that there are CIL services available in each of the six regions of the state.

**Objective 1.1:**  *Each year of the SPIL, Utah's six CIL’s will provide statewide IL services to a minimum of 20 percent new individuals compared to the statewide CSR count reported on the Federal 704 report, as demonstrated by the number of new CSRs compared to the total CSR number.*

**Activities:**

Utah's network of six CILs will continue to promote the provision of IL services in their individual regions based on community and individual needs and available resources. In addressing the continuation of individual IL services, a minimum of 20 percent will be new individuals receiving services, Utah's Centers will maintain their activities of outreach, intake, planning, setting of individual goals and desired outcomes, providing services to achieve goal(s), coordination of necessary supports, documenting demographics, and providing follow up services as needed.The provision of these IL services includes the four core services and an array of others that may be needed by individuals working towards living independently in their communities.

The 704 report, compiled by the DSU each year, will document the outcome measure that at least 20 percent of individuals served on a statewide basis will be new consumers. The measure will be determined by comparing the number of Consumer Service Records that are opened for new individuals to the total number of Consumer Service Records recorded on the RSA 704 Report.

**Objective 1.2** *The CILs will continue to provide individualized IL services for people with significant disabilities that facilitate achievement of their individual independent living goals*.

**Activities:**

The six CILs will provide, at a minimum, the four basic core services required by law. Utah CILs will provide services in a manner consistent with the local community needs. Services to achieve individual independent living goals are:

Information and referral: All six CILs have well established programs to provide information and referral to individuals requesting such for disability issues and services. These services include local, statewide, and national information.

Peer Support: All of Utah’s CILs have programs where staff, volunteers, or others with disabilities serve as role models to consumers on a one to one basis.

Skills Training: Each CIL has programs to provide the training needed for individual consumers to achieve or increase their level of independence.

Advocacy: In addition to community and state level advocacy, all CILs provide individual advocacy programs to meet their consumer’s needs.

Additional Services:

Nursing Home Diversion and Transition: The Utah CILs are participating in a state funded program to prevent people with disabilities from inappropriate institutionalization and to enhance community based living. Each CIL operates a local community Nursing Home Diversion and Transition program with the goal of keeping people who do not need to be in nursing homes out of them. Each of the six programs combined these specific services with center services to achieve this extremely important individual and community goal.

Assistive Technology: Each Center provides assistive technology services that include evaluation, acquiring or loaning equipment, and training and follow up services. Level and scope of AT services provided in each Center depends upon availability of community based services and state funding.

These services will be measured through outcomes identified in the contract between the DSU and the CILs and as documented in the 704 on an annual basis.

**Goal Two: People in Utah are aware of the issues disability presents to the individual and the community; and the value of full participation in society.**

**Narrative:** To achieve a society where people with disabilities are able to participate to the full extent of their ability and choice, it is necessary to ensure the community is aware of disability and the issues it presents to our society.

**Objective 2.1**  *People in Utah will have the opportunity to gain or increase their awareness of disability and disability issues*

**Activities:**

The IL Network will continue to provide information on disability issues to a variety of community organizations and agencies, as well as increasing the use of social media. This will be measured yearly by each organization in the IL network documenting the number of committees we have representation on, or attend, and the number of presentations made to community organizations.

**Objective 2.2** *People with disabilities have opportunities to participate in community activities*

**Activities:**

The Utah IL Program will provide specific services as dictated by consumer needs. Direct services to consumers are provided by CILs only in Utah. Each Center has a program that assists consumers to actively participate in their communities, through the Community Integration Program and other services available through the CILs. Consumers will set their own goals for increased participation that will be monitored and reported in the annual 704 report.

**Objective 2.3** *The USILC Website is a site where current information on disability services, activities, and issues are available*

**Activities:**

The USILC website will continue to be developed to more fully meet the information needs of the Utah IL Network. The site will provide information to include but not be limited to:

* Comprehensive information to assist advocates in understanding the issues
* Legislative action alerts
* Basic IL services
* Summary of local and statewide advocacy efforts and activities.
* Information on Utah IL Network
* Links to disability organizations, services, information, and resources.

The site will be continuously evaluated by USILC and appropriate modifications will be made to enhance the system as needed. A questionnaire will be developed to solicit input from other members of the IL Network.

**Objective 2.4** *Identify and participate in current housing and transportation planning activities to develop strategies to enhance accessible and affordable housing and transportation options*

**Activities:**

Participants from the IL Network will work to maximize services that are available and needed by IL consumers through participating with disability related organizations, councils and groups in an effort to ensure that independent living philosophy and services are taken into account when programs are being developed or reviewed in the areas of housing and transportation options. These activities will be documented on the 704 annually in the community activities section.

**Goal Three: Youth with disabilities are participating in their communities according to their choice, abilities and circumstances.**

**Narrative:** Utah's IL Network believes that in order for youth to successfully transition into adult life they need opportunities to learn, experience, and practice the skills the community will expect of them as adults. In order to facilitate opportunities for learning these skills it is necessary for youth with disabilities to 1) explore and determine what they feel are the relevant skills and opportunities, and 2) help ensure that such opportunities are or become available to them.

**Objective 3.1**  *The IL Network* *will demonstrate continuous improvement in their service delivery, as evidenced by serving a larger number of youth than the previous year*

**Activities:**

The Utah IL Network believes that youth with disabilities are an underserved group. The USILC will support the CILs with technical assistance and guidance (as requested) on developing youth activities that are designed to meet local needs to increase participation of youth in center services and activities. The USILC will encourage CILs in reaching out to existing groups of young adults with disabilities (such as transition classes in local school districts) with regular opportunities to learn about the history of Independent Living, the philosophy of IL, and the services offered by CILs that can support the transition to adulthood and independent living. The USILC will also: 1) support the involvement of youth in regular CIL activities and services, and 2) encourage youth to become involved in the planning of additional activities/services that will better meet their collective and individual needs.

**Objective 3.2** *USILC will develop a Youth Advisory Council to provide input to the IL network to better meet the needs of youth with disabilities.*

**Activities:**
In order to more effectively accomplish the activities listed in Objective 3.1, USILC will develop and support a Youth Committee that may consist of members of USILC, members from the IL Network, and interested Youth.  A Youth will also be recruited to sit on USILC.  The Youth Committee will review ways to support greater inclusion of youth with disabilities in IL services and activities across the State as funding allows. Youth Committee minutes will be recorded and available for review. Recruitment of a youth member for USILC will occur during the first year of the SPIL and be appointed in the second year.

**Objective 3.3** *USILC will support the creation and maintenance of an IL focused Youth Leadership training initiative across the state*

**Activities:**

Reviewing the results of the first statewide IL Youth Leadership training, being held in June 2013, USILC's Youth Committee will encourage the IL Network to increase the number of youth with disabilities who receive formal advocacy and leadership training through CILs and related organizations. As funding permits, the youth committee will work towards offering annual youth leadership training.

**Goal Four: Utah Public Policy is reflective of the supports necessary for people with disabilities to participate independently in their communities.**

**Narrative:** To achieve the goals, objectives and overall mission of Utah's SPIL it will be necessary to establish a community: 1) who are aware of the supports needed by some of its citizens with disabilities and 2) believe in the importance of making sure public policy is responsive to them. The Utah SPIL addresses this by a plan that assists people in knowing the techniques of effective advocacy.

**Objective 4.1** *People will speak for themselves, their family and community to Utah policy makers*

**Activities:**

The USILC will actively partner with the Utah Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, the Utah Developmental Disabilities Council, the Grassroots Advocacy Program and others to strengthen the network of regional disability coalitions in their ability to educate public policy makers concerning the issues and needs of people with disabilities. USILC will collaborate with local disability advocacy group(s) in providing information exchange, strategy development, and other things the local groups determine as important in their efforts to advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities in their communities. These efforts will always be coordinated with the local CILs. Records of activities will be documented.

**Objective 4.2** *The IL Network will provide state policy makers and Legislators with information to ensure they are aware of the needs and issues of people with disabilities and the solutions to address those needs*

**Activities:**

The IL Network, with appropriate funding sources, will participate in the coordination of legislative advocacy and awareness events with statewide disability groups, be present and available to provide information at state legislative meetings, and be present and available to provide information at state disability agencies and other organizations, public hearings and advisory meetings. Record of ongoing activities will be documented by the IL Network. Issues and recommendations will also be documented and available on the USILC website.

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. This section of the SPIL must:

* Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts;
* Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside; and
* Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be addressed.

Although each of Utah’s six CILs have established programs to outreach underserved populations, all report that there is still a significant number of underserved individuals with disabilities in their service regions. This is primarily due to the lack of resources, including transportation, funding, and staff time. Over the course of this three year plan, the IL network will continue to identify and serve underserved populations.

Eighty percent of Utah’s population is located along the Wasatch Front which comprises 14% of the geographic area. This area is served by three Centers individually located in Ogden, Salt Lake City and Provo. The remaining geographic area (86%) is served by the three rural Centers located in Logan, Price and St. George. The targeted populations reside in all areas of the state. Since there are available IL services in each of Utah's six IL regional areas, which cover the entire state, we consider no area un-served. This does not mean we have the resources to serve all those in need of IL services. In fact, we estimate that we are only serving as little as one percent of individuals with disabilities residing in Utah.

The Utah IL Network, in conjunction with the Association for Independent Living of Utah (AILU), has identified, and continues to address, outreach to underserved populations, which includes minority groups, urban and rural populations, people living in nursing homes, youth, seniors, and other groups identified by a specific Center. The IL Network will review existing Utah census and disability information concerning disability types, gender, age, ethnicity and race. The information collected will be reviewed. The IL Network will prioritize and advocate for the resources necessary to implement these outreach strategies.

The Centers will demonstrate continued services to minority and underserved populations as evidenced on the 704 report.