

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the responsibilities of the SILC?

Are there requirements for what a SILC is supposed to do?

Yes. Every Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) has specific duties they must fulfill according to the Rehab Act and the IL Regulations.

The duties of the SILC include:

- Develop the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) – The SILC is responsible for the development of the SPIL. While the Plan must be jointly developed by the SILC and the directors of the centers for independent living (CILs), the SILC is responsible for making sure this happens and that the SPIL is submitted. The importance of this Plan for your state is that it directs the focus of the Independent Living (IL) Network through common goals and objectives, directs funding for CILs and IL Services, and builds a path for everyone to move forward to accomplish a common Mission.
- Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan – After the SPIL has been submitted and approved, the real work of the SILC begins. The SILC must implement the Evaluation Plan included in the SPIL to monitor, review, and evaluate its implementation and effectiveness over the three years of the plan. This work should be ongoing but at a minimum, must be done at least once annually. Being able to demonstrate progress and show positive outcomes is important for your IL Network. The work of the SPIL is often the only time that all partners are working on the same goals, so showing the work completed can motivate the continuation of the work and let others in the state see the importance of IL.
- Meet Regularly – The SILC must meet regularly, and the meetings must be open to the public. This will have different requirements in different states, so it is very important to know if your state's open meetings laws are applicable. Even if the state's open meetings laws are not applicable, a SILC must have its own policies in place to make sure meetings are open and accessible to the public, including allowing for sufficient advance notice of meetings.
- Submit periodic reporting – Annually the SILC must work with the DSE to complete the Program Performance Report (PPR or formerly 704 Report). In this report the SILC will provide information on the compliance of the Council membership, as well as showing the work that was completed in the reporting year. Information on SPIL progress is included in this report, as well. Additional reports and documentation supporting the PPR and other work of the SILC may also be requested by ACL.
- Coordinate activities with other entities in the state – As appropriate, and likely as it relates to your SPIL, the SILC must coordinate activities with other entities in the state that provide IL services or services that are similar and complimentary to IL Services. Many times, this can help bring more awareness to IL and the work of the CILs.

What do SILCs do other than SILC Duties?

The SILC may also engage in any or all of the authorities included in the Rehab Act as long as they are identified in the State Plan for Independent Living.

The Authorities include:

- Work with the CILs to coordinate services with public and private entities – The SILC can work actively with the IL Network in identifying partners for the CILs to work with. This can include things like coordinating meetings with the CILs and other partners, providing the CILs information on other programs and partners, and other efforts to improve services provided to individuals.
- Conduct Resource Development – The SILC can conduct resource development to support the activities of the SILC as well as to support the provision of IL Services by the CILs and can coordinate resource development activities with the CILs.
- Perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of IL, as the Council determines to be appropriate and identified in the SPIL. The SILC may engage in a variety of other activities that are consistent with the purpose of IL, which may include work in systems advocacy, giving the SILC broad authority to conduct activities to improve the lives of people with disabilities in their state.

Does Every SILC do all of the authorities?

No, not every SILC operates the same way and SILCs have different priorities and capacities to conduct the authorities. Many times the SILC is limited based on the amount of resources that are available to the Council, including having staff to assist in conducting the many possible activities allowable under the authorities.

Is there anything the SILC can't do?

Yes. The SILC may not provide independent living services directly or manage IL services. The only work that the SILC can engage in with individuals seeking services is to direct them to the appropriate CIL and share information about the CIL. Providing the information about the CILs is not considered the provision of a direct service.

How do I find out more about my SILC?

All SILCs hold meetings open to the public that you can attend and hear what is happening within your state. You can look up information on your SILC by [clicking here](#). After learning more, you can contact your SILC to find out about opportunities to become more involved whether it is joining mailing lists, participating in committees, providing input on the SPIL, participating in public forums, or becoming a Council Member.