

State of Tennessee  
Department of Human Services  
Division of Rehabilitation Services

Public Comments

Of

STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

(SPIL) AMENDMENTS

For

FISCAL YEAR, 2008-2010

The SPIL amendments maybe reviewed at the following locations across the state; regional rehabilitation services office, Statewide Independent Living Council office, Centers for Independent Living offices, as well as online at

<http://state.tn.us/humanserv/rehab/cc3.html> .

All comments on the SPIL amendments should be sent to the address below by Friday, October 30, 2009:

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The SPIL Amendments are available in alternative format upon request.

## AMENDMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008 – 2010

### STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

#### 3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25

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).

Plans for expanding the network of centers for independent living are to have as many established throughout the state as necessary in order to cover relatively small geographical areas in such a way as to maximize efficient use of funding. This will allow more persons with significant disabilities to participate in IL services because of easier access to CILs. Tennessee is a very rural state with virtually no access for many with disabilities to transportation and the electronic superhighway.

Part C ARRA funds will be used for competition to establish a new Part C center in the service area of current Part B funded center, the Training, Advocacy, Referral & Peer Support (TARP), in the following northern Middle Tennessee counties: Benton, Dickson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Stewart and Weakley, at \$200,000 a year over a 5 year period. These counties include approximately 59,084 persons with disabilities. The remaining part C ARRA funds will be distributed equally between four (4) of the existing part C centers: Center for Independent Living of Middle Tennessee, Disability Resource Center, Jackson Center for Independent Living and Memphis Center for Independent Living to address the underserved populations in their service areas. No ARRA Part C funds will be distributed to the Chattanooga center, Tri-State Resource and Advocacy, Inc., because that center declined to participate in discussions with the DSU, SILC, and the other Part C centers regarding the distribution of the ARRA Part C funds.

Other priority counties are identified in 1-5 below and will be considered for a new CIL when at least \$40,000 in State or Federal funding opportunities becomes available.

Top five priority counties:

(1) Northeast Tennessee counties of Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, Green, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger and Hamblen;

(2) East Tennessee counties of Campbell, Cocke, Union, Anderson, Roane, Loudon, Monroe, Blount, Sevier and Jefferson;

(3) Cumberland Plateau including counties of Morgan, Scott, Pickett, Clay, Macon, Jackson, Smith, DeKalb, White, Cannon, Van Buren, Cumberland, Fentress, Overton, and Putnam;

(4) South Central counties including Hickman, Perry, Maury, Lewis, Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Lincoln, Moore, Bedford, Coffee, Franklin and Warren;

(5) West (North/South) Tennessee counties of Obion, Lake, Lauderdale, Tipton, Fayette, McNairy, Hardin, Decatur and Dyer;

Additional CILs will be started after a CIL -- established with "seed" funding of \$40,000 -- reaches \$200,000 in funding.

The most significant barrier to completion of the network of CILs continues to be a lack of funding. The SILC will support the CILs in pursuing funding from the State for independent living services.

If additional regular Part C funds become available in an amount less than \$40,000, that funding will be distributed equally to all existing Part C centers in the state.