

STATE: New Hampshire

**STATE PLAN**

**FOR**

**INDEPENDENT LIVING**

**FISCAL YEARS 2005 - 2007**

Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended

**STATE: New Hampshire**

**Section 1: Purpose of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), under Chapter 1 of Title VII**

1.1 Philosophy of the Programs (Sec. 701 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.2)

The State assures that in the implementation of this plan the State will:

- (a) Promote a philosophy of independent living (IL), including a philosophy of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual, and system advocacy, to maximize the leadership, empowerment, independence, and productivity of individuals with significant disabilities, and to promote and maximize the integration and full inclusion of individuals with significant disabilities into the mainstream of American society by providing financial assistance to States;
- (b) Provide financial assistance for providing, expanding, or improving the provision of IL services;
- (c) Provide assistance to develop and support a Statewide network of centers for independent living (CILs), operated by consumer-controlled, community-based, cross-disability, nonresidential private nonprofit agencies that are operated within local communities by individuals with disabilities and that provide an array of IL services; and
- (d) Advocate for improving working relationships among the various entities providing services to and for people with significant disabilities.

1.2 Participation in the Programs (Sec. 704 (a)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.10)

The DSU and SILC understands that no Federal funds or other benefits can be made available under Chapter 1 unless the State conforms with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

- (a) This SPIL reflects the State's commitment to carry out an IL plan under Chapter 1 of Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Chapter 1)<sup>1</sup>, and also the State's planning and implementation activities related to the plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Public Law 93-112, as amended by Public Laws 93-516, 93-651, 95-602, 98-221, 99-506, 100-259, 100-630, 101-336, 102-569, 103-73, and 103-218.

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**Section 2: Legal Basis and State Certifications** (Sec. 704 of the Act)

As a condition to the receipt of financial assistance under Chapter 1, the

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New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council

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(Name of Statewide Independent Living Council)

jointly with the DSU is authorized to develop and sign the SPIL. The DSU and SILC agree to administer the programs in compliance with the provisions of the Act, all applicable regulations, policies, and procedures promulgated by the Secretary, and the provisions of this SPIL.

- (b) The State legally may carry out each provision of the SPIL and the DSU has the authority under State law to perform the functions of the plan.
- (c) All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law.
- (d) The Director, Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation  
(Title of State Official) (acting on behalf of DSU)

has authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL.

- (e) The SPIL being submitted has been adopted or otherwise formally approved by the DSU and SILC.
- (f) The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the Chapter 1 programs, as appropriate,<sup>2</sup> and is available for public inspection.
- (g) The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2004.

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<sup>2</sup> If a State's expenditures earmarked to support the general operation of CILs is equal to or greater than the amount of Federal funds allotted to the State for this purpose, and the State has applied in SPIL Section 8 to administer the Part C, Ch. 1 program pursuant to section 723 of the Act, then the DSU must provide administrative support to the CILs; otherwise, the Secretary administers the CIL program pursuant to section 722 of the Act and the approved SPIL and the DSU is not required to provide administrative support services. §704(c)(2) of the Act

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SIGNATURE OF SILC CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Joshua Boynton \_\_\_\_\_ 603-271-0476  
NAME OF SILC CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.

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SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Paul K. Leather, Director \_\_\_\_\_ 603-271-3471  
NAME AND TITLE OF DESIGNATED STATE UNIT DIRECTOR \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.

**Section 3: Plan Submittal**

3.1 Frequency of Submittal (Sec. 704 (a)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.11, 364.20(b))

- (a) This SPIL is for fiscal years 2002 - 2004. A three-year plan must be submitted every three years by July 1 of the year preceding the first fiscal year for which the plan is submitted, (i.e., July 1, 2001).
- (b) Plan amendments are submitted whenever the Secretary determines an amendment to the SPIL is essential during the effective period of the plan; or when there is a significant and relevant change that materially affects the information or the assurances in the plan, the administration or operation of the plan, or the organization, policies, or operations of the DSU or SILC.

3.2 State Plan Development (Sec. 704 (a)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(c))

The State plan is jointly developed and signed by the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC or other individual acting on behalf of and at the direction of the Council.

3.3 Public Hearings (Sections 17, 704(m)(6) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.20(g), (h))

- (a) The State conducts public hearings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations, and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the SPIL prior to its submission to RSA, and on any substantive review or revision of the approved SPIL. The DSU and SILC may meet the public participation requirement by holding the public hearings before a preliminary draft State plan is prepared or by providing a preliminary draft State plan for comment at the public hearings.
- (b) The State establishes and maintains a written description of procedures for conducting public hearings in accordance with the following requirements:
  - (i) The DSU and SILC shall provide appropriate and sufficient notice of the public hearings. Appropriate and sufficient notice means notice provided at least 30 days

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prior to the public meeting through various media available to the general public, such as newspapers and public service announcements, and through specific contacts with appropriate constituency groups and organizations identified by the DSU and SILC.

- (ii) The DSU and SILC shall make reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public hearings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops.
- (iii) The DSU and SILC shall provide the notices of the public hearings, any written material provided prior to or at the public hearings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats (e.g., Braille, large print, on disk) for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.
- (iv) At the public hearings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC will identify those provisions in the State plan that are State-imposed requirements. For purposes of this section, a State-imposed requirement includes any State law, regulation, rule, or policy relating to the DSU's administration or operation of IL programs under Title VII of the Act, including any rule or policy implementing any Federal law, regulation, or guideline, that is beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.

- (c) The State identifies State imposed requirements resulting from the application of any State rule or policy relating to the administration or operation of the programs under

Chapter 1. Following are descriptions of the State imposed requirements included in the SPIL, if any:

Services provided under a contract with the center, Granite State Independent Living, are subject to financial need and a \$5,000 per year service limit.

3.4 Opportunity for Review and Comment Under State Review Process (34 CFR 76.141-142)

If the SPIL or an amendment to the plan is subject to the State review process, such materials are reviewed, and commented on, in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 12372. Comments provided through the State review process will be transmitted to RSA.

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**Section 4: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)** (Sec. 705(a) and (b) of the Act)

4.1 Composition of the SILC (Sec. 705(b) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(b))

(1) State the total number of persons on the SILC.	20
(2) State the number of SILC members with disabilities, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4 (b), and not employed by a State agency or a CIL	13
(3) Is a representative of the DSU an ex-officio, member of the SILC?	<u>Y</u> N
(4) State the number of voting members on the SILC.	19
(5) State the number of different disability groups (physical, mental, cognitive, sensory, or multiple) represented by members of the SILC (up to five).	7
(6) Is a CIL director chosen by CIL directors within the State appointed to the SILC?	<u>Y</u> N
(7) Does the SILC include representatives from other State agencies that provide services for individuals with disabilities.	<u>Y</u> N
(8) Does the council have a voting membership that is knowledgeable about CILs and IL services?	<u>Y</u> N
(9) Do Council members provide statewide representation?	<u>Y</u> N
(10) Is the Council Chairperson elected from among the voting members of the Council by the voting members of the Council or the Governor, pursuant to section 705(b)(5) of the Act?	<u>Y</u> N

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4.2 Placement of the SILC (Sec. 705(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(a)(2))

The SILC is not established as an entity within any State agency, including the DSU, and is independent of the DSU and all other State agencies. Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC:

The SILC is not established in any entity within any State Agency, including the DSU, and is independent of the DSU and all other State Agencies. Following is a brief description of the legal status and placement of the SILC.

The SILC is housed in the Governor's Commission on Disability under an agreement with the DSU that includes a part-time staff person and support services.

4.3 Plan for Provision of Resources to the SILC (SILC Budget) Sec. 705(e) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.21(i))

- (a) In conjunction with the DSU, the SILC will prepare a Resource Plan Attachment 2 (SILC Budget) for the provision of resources, cash or in-kind, including staff and personnel, rent, supplies, telephone expenses, travel, and other expenses (e.g., child care, personal assistance services, and compensation to a member of the SILC, if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages from other employment, for each day the member is engaged in performing SILC duties) that will be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC during the term of the SPIL.
- (b) The SILC will be responsible for the proper expenditure of funds and the use of resources it receives under the SILC Budget.
- (c) No conditions or requirements are included in the SILC Budget that will compromise the independence of the SILC.
- (d) While assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties under the SPIL, staff and other personnel assigned to the SILC under the SILC Budget will not be assigned duties by the DSU or other agency or office of the State that would create a conflict of interest.

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**Attachment 2 - Plan for the Provision of Resources to the SILC (SILC Budget)  
(34 FR 364.21 (i) and (j))**

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Staff Salaries			
Administrator (20%)			
Administrative Assistant (80%)			
Office Space and Supplies			
Meetings (8 at \$			
Transportation			
Personal Care Attendants			
Interpreters			
Refreshments			
Training/Conferences			
Website Development and Maintenance			
Coordination/Facilitation			
Total Projected Costs			

The New Hampshire Statewide Independent Living Council is housed in the Governor's Commission on Disability through a contract that includes office space, supplies/telephone and an administrative assistant who supports the SILC. The Designated State Unit has an administrator who provides support to the SILC at 20 percent. The Designated State Unit contracts with the community-based service provider which is consumer-controlled, to arrange for and support Council member participation in training and conferences. Salaries for the Administrator, and Administrative Assistant are supported under Title VII, Part B, as are the contracts for training, attendance at conferences, and technological services and support. As noted in Attachment I, the Council plans to provide coordination and facilitation services through a contract to achieve the objectives noted in Attachment I.

The Designated State Unit provides access services for all members of the State Rehabilitation Council and the Statewide Independent Living Council. This includes providing interpreters, readers, CART, personal attendant services, accessible transportation, refreshments, and any meeting room rental. This service which costs approximately per year for each council, is budgeted for the next three years at slight increases. The balance of the resources to support the SILC are under Title VII, Part B grant and the state match.

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**Section 5: Designation and Responsibilities of the State Unit(s)**

5.1 Designation (Sec. 704(c) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The State unit(s) designated to receive, account for, and disburse funds, and provide administrative support services is (are):

New Hampshire Division of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation

5.2 DSU Responsibilities under the SPIL (Sec. 704( c ) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.22)

The DSU:

- (a) Receives, accounts for, and disburses funds received by the State under Chapter 1 in accordance with the SPIL;
- (b) Provides administrative support services for the part B State IL services (SILS) program and the part C, Chapter. 1, CIL program in a case in which the program is administered by the State under section 723 of the Act;
- (c) Keeps such records and affords such access to such records as the Secretary finds to be necessary with respect to the programs; and
- (d) Submits the SPIL and such additional information or provides such assurances as the Secretary may require with respect to the programs.

**Section 6: Staff and Staff Development**

6.1 Personnel Administration (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.23)

- (a) The staff of service providers will include personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of CILs.
- (b) To the maximum extent feasible, each service provider will make available 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 tape, and who apply for or receive IL services under the SPIL; 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 the SPIL.

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6.2 Personnel Development (Sec. 12(c), 704(m) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.24)

The State assures that service providers will 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 program will emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of the IL philosophy.

6.3 Affirmative Action (Sec. 704(m)(2) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.31)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

6.4 Nondiscrimination (34 CFR 76.500)

No individual will, on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under this SPIL.

**Section 7: Financial Administration**

7.1 General Provisions (Sec. 704(m)(3) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.34)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will adopt such fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds paid to the State under Chapter 1.

7.2 Source of State Funds (Sections 712(b)(2) and 7(7)(C) of the Act; 34 CFR 365.12, .13 and .14, 367.11, .42)

- (a) The one to nine non-Federal share of the cost of any project that receives assistance through an allotment under part B, Chapter 1 will be provided in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services, consistent with 34 CFR 365.13, .14, and .15.
- (b) For the purpose of determining the Federal share with respect to the State, expenditures by a political subdivision of the State will, subject to regulations prescribed by the Secretary, be regarded as expenditures by the State.

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- (c) The State may not condition the award of a grant, subgrant, or contract under part B, Chapter 1 or a grant, subgrant, or assistance contract under part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the grant or subgrant make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State. Furthermore, an individual, entity, or organization that is a grantee or subgrantee of the State, or has a contract with the State, may not condition the award of a subgrant or subcontract under part B, Chapter 1 or part C, Chapter 1 on the requirement that the applicant for the subgrant or subcontract make a cash or in-kind contribution of any particular amount or value to the State or to the grantee or contractor of the State.

7.3 Financial Record Keeping (Sec. 704(m)(4)(A) and (B) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.35)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will:

- (a) Maintain records that fully disclose--
  - (1) the amount and disposition by each recipient of the proceeds of such financial assistance,
  - (2) the total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which such financial assistance is given or used, and
  - (3) the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources; and
  - (4) compliance with the requirements of Chapter 1 and 34 CFR Parts 364, 365, 366, and 367.
- (b) Maintain such other records as the Secretary determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

7.4 Access to Financial Records (Sec. 704(m)(4 & 5) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.37)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will afford access to the Secretary and the Comptroller General or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits and examinations, to all records maintained pursuant to section 7.3 of the SPIL immediately above and any other books, documents, papers, and records of the recipients that are pertinent to the financial assistance received under Chapter 1.

7.5 Financial Reports (Sec. 704(m)(4)(D) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.36)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 will submit reports with respect to records required in section 7.3 of the SPIL, as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

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Section 8: State Administration of Part C Program<sup>3</sup>

**NOTE - THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO §723 STATES. NOT APPLICABLE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE**

8.1 Funds Earmarked to Support CILs (Sec. 723(a) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

In the second fiscal year preceding fiscal year 2000, the general operations of CILs in the State were supported by the following amounts of earmarked funds<sup>4</sup>:

State Funds	0	Federal Allotment	0
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8.2 State Applies to Administer Part C Program (Sections 704(h) and 723 of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32)

The director of the DSU hereby applies to award grants or assistance contracts to eligible agencies in the State that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act. The grants are to be made from the funds allotted to the State for the planning, conduct, administration, and evaluation of CILs under part C, Chapter 1.

8.3 State administers funds in compliance with §723 (Sec. 704(h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.32, .35)

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<sup>3</sup> (a) To meet the requirements in section 723(a)(1)(B) and (2) of the Act, a **§723 State must submit this section of the SPIL for approval each year** subsequent to the first year of approval to administer the Part C, Chapter 1 program.

(b) Unless the provisions of Attachment 8 are materially changed, submittal of this Section shall not constitute a material revision of the SPIL requiring public hearings or State review under SPIL Section 3.

<sup>4</sup> The amount of State funds earmarked by a State to support the general operation of centers does not include: (1) Federal funds used for the general operation of centers; (2) State funds used to purchase services from a CIL, including State funds used for grants or contracts for personal assistance or skills training; (3) State attendant care funds; (4) Social Security Administration reimbursement funds; or (5) funds used to support an entity that does not meet the definition of a CIL in section 702 of the Act, e.g. funds used to support a single disability (If a State or outlying area is operating a CIL pursuant to section 724 of the Act, the funds used to support this CIL can be considered "earmarked" for purposes of section 723(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Act.) or residential facility cannot be counted as earmarked funds.

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- (a) If Section 8.2 is answered in the affirmative, the director of the DSU awards grants or assistance contracts under section 723 of the Act to any eligible agency that was awarded a grant under part C, Chapter 1 on September 30, 1993, unless the director makes a finding that the agency involved fails to comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act or the director of the DSU and the chairperson of the SILC, or other individual designated by the SILC to act on behalf of and at the direction of the SILC, jointly agree to another order of priorities.
- (b) The State assures that any assistance contracts issued to eligible agencies will not add any requirements, terms, or conditions to the assistance contract other than those that would be permitted if the assistance contract were a subgrant consistent with grants issued by RSA under section 722 of the Act.
- (c) In administering the part C, Chapter 1 program, the State will not enter into any procurement contracts with CILs to carry out section 723 of the Act.

8.4 Monitoring and Oversight. (§§704(h), 723(g) and (h) of the Act; 34 CFR 366.38)

The State assures that periodic and on-site compliance reviews will be conducted to determine CIL compliance with section 725 of the Act as described in Attachment 3.

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**Attachment 4 describes the policies, practices, and procedures, which comply with section 723 of the Act, that the State utilizes for awarding continuation and new grants.**

**Section 9: Information on Use of Part B, Chapter 1 Funds**

9.1 Use of §711 funds in support of §713 purposes (Sec. 713 of the Act; 34 CFR 365.1)

<b>Part B Funds are to be used only for any one or more of the following purposes (all optional):</b>	<b>Directly by DSU</b>	<b>Grant/Contract</b>	<b>Dollar Amt.</b>
(a) Fund the resource plan for SILC (SPIL Section 4).	<u>Y</u> N	<u>Y</u> N	\$20,000
(b) Provide IL services to individuals with significant Disabilities	Y <u>N</u>	<u>Y</u> N	\$250,000
(c) Demonstrate ways to expand and improve IL services.	Y <u>N</u>	<u>Y</u> N	\$1,000
(d) Support the general operation of CILs.	Y <u>N</u>	Y <u>N</u>	
(e) Support activities to increase capacity of public or nonprofit agencies and organizations and other entities to develop comprehensive approaches or systems for providing IL services.	<u>Y</u> N	<u>Y</u> N	\$1,000
(f) Conduct studies and analyses, gather information, develop model policies and procedures, and present information, approaches, strategies, findings, conclusions, and recommendations to Federal, State, and local policy makers to enhance IL services.	Y <u>N</u>	<u>Y</u> N	\$1,000
(g) Train individuals with significant disabilities, individuals providing services to individuals with significant disabilities, and other persons regarding IL philosophy.	<u>Y</u> N	<u>Y</u> N	\$1,000
(h) Provide outreach to unserved or underserved populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.	<u>Y</u> N	<u>Y</u> N	\$1,000

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**Attachment 1: Goals, Missions, and Objectives**

The Statewide Independent Living Council created a “State Plan Committee” in 2003-2004. The role of the committee was to review the previous SPIL and provide input to the SILC as to suggestions for the 2004-2007 SPIL.

In addition the State Plan Committee with the support of the full SILC conducted four Forums at locations throughout the State in April 2004. The Forums were held in Keene, Nashua, Dover, and Berlin. The focus of the Forums was to conduct a “needs assessment” in order to more clearly define the gaps and issues impacting upon the ability of NH citizens with disabilities to live independently in their communities. While the forum format for a “needs assessment” was not the first choice of the SILC, it was within the resources available to the SILC. The Forums did provide valuable information to the SILC upon which it will organize Goal Activities over the next three years.

**GOAL 1:** The SILC will develop and increase its capacity to serve as a knowledgeable voice that promotes the independent living philosophy.

**OBJECTIVE:** To work cooperatively with appropriate councils and agencies in promoting a statewide independent living philosophy.

<b>GOAL 1 ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIME FRAME OF ACTIVITY</b>
Review, through a facilitated meeting, the SILC’s Mission Statement and to make any changes which would more clearly define it.	Year 1
Conduct a facilitated training on advocacy in order to identify core principles to advocate for persons with disabilities in NH	Year 1
Disseminate information about SILC’s mission and issues of importance	Ongoing
Provide technical assistance to organizations that support people with disabilities	Ongoing
Increase awareness of state and national policy initiatives that impact upon the independent living of individuals with disabilities	Ongoing
Continue to build upon and enhance the partnership between the State Rehabilitation Council and the SILC a. Conduct a joint workshop with the SRC to strategize on issues and to develop common goals upon which both bodies can work together	Year 1 - Ongoing
Advise the Governor, the Department of Education , and other State Agencies regarding issues relative to independent living	Ongoing
Continue to build upon and enhance the collaboration between the Governor’s Commission on Disability and the SILC. a. Work with GCD relative to transportation issues b. Seek an appointment of a member of SILC to the Governor’s Transportation Task Force	Year 1 - Ongoing
Work with housing specialist to increase coordination of accessible housing for people with disabilities a. Seek a representative from the NH Finance Authority to serve on SILC b. Request that a member of SILC be appointed to the GCD Housing	Year 1 - Ongoing

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Committee	
Build a partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services relative to healthcare issues which impact upon independent living. a. Continue to have representatives from HHS update SILC relative to Changes to Medicare and Medicaid in NH b. Work with Granite State Independent Living (GSIL) to have SILC representatives attend a “Benefits Planning” meeting in order to better learn about the activity and to report to the SILC.	Year 1 - Ongoing
Increase knowledge of recreation/leisure activities available for individuals with disabilities in NH a. Seek out individuals who could present information during SILC meetings around recreation/leisure opportunities b. Post opportunities on the SILC website	Ongoing
Continue efforts to train the SILC and to mentor new members	Ongoing
Develop a relationship with the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability (IOD) by having a representative of the IOD serve on the SILC	Year 1 - Ongoing

**GOAL 2:** The SILC will implement the next three year State Plan for Independent Living that will cover Fiscal Years 2005, 2006, and 2007.

**OBJECTIVE:** To maintain the focus on the priorities and direction of SILC activities.

<b>GOAL 2 ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIME FRAME OF ACTIVITY</b>
Periodically evaluate progress of the SPIL by quarterly reviews and updates to the full Council in order to identify accomplishments and challenges	Ongoing
Begin the process of the development of next SPIL (FY 2008,2009, 2010 at the end of year two (2006)	August 2006
Incorporate the results of any needs assessment conducted under this SPIL into the next SPIL	Year 3
Continue to evaluate the priority and direction of the SILC to provide services to individuals with significant disabilities	Ongoing
Prepare Part B RFP and award eligible entity(ies) consistent with the statute, its regulations, the SPIL, and the SILC’s mission	Ongoing

**GOAL 3:** The SILC will determine unmet independent living needs in the state and will evaluate consumer satisfaction and program effectiveness of Part B services.

**OBJECTIVE:** To provide continual assessment of the independent living needs of persons with disabilities.

<b>GOAL 3 ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIME FRAME OF ACTIVITY</b>
Continue the process relative to conducting a statewide needs assessment	Year 1 - Ongoing
Encourage the creative enhancement of services in meeting the needs of people with disabilities by sharing results of the Forums with	Year 1

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program providers	
Invite Program Providers to attend meetings of the SILC in order to share the results of the 2004 Public Forums	Year 1
Determine whether a future needs assessment is needed, if so, determine its format and timeline	Year 1
Monitor the SILC website in regards to an open survey and periodically review at quarterly SILC meetings	Ongoing
Participate in statewide conferences of disability groups/organizations with the purpose of sharing successes, failures and ideas through workshops and presentations.	Ongoing

**GOAL 4:** The SILC will develop strong leadership culture.

**OBJECTIVE:** To train members of the SILC to become active, knowledgeable members, in order that they may more easily take on a leadership role in the State regarding independent living needs and services.

<b>GOAL 4 ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>TIME FRAME OF ACTIVITY</b>
Conduct a facilitated training meeting for all members relative to developing common ground around a strong sense of teamwork and leadership	Year 1

**PRIORITY STATEMENT FOR THE STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING**

The SILC will continue its efforts to advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities to have equal access to, and inclusion in, all activities available to individuals without disabilities. This will be done by creating and enhancing partnerships within the disability community and organizations, as well as with family members, service providers, and state agencies.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Based upon the input that the SILC received during the April, 2004 Public Forums, the SILC was provided with six recommendations which would assist the SILC in achieving its Priority Statement over the next three years, as well as each of the specific goals stated above. The recommendations from the four Public Forums are:

1. SILC define a role for itself that aggressively educates, advocates for, and advances the principles of consumer control, peer support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy, i.e. Independent Living Philosophy.
2. SILC become a leader in the state as a voice for people with disabilities and the need for collaboration.
3. SILC facilitate the creation and promotion of clear statewide SILC contact points.
4. SILC collaborate with other disability organizations to conduct educational sessions for state legislators (new and returning) regarding the issues and barriers in the state that impact upon independent living.

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5. SILC find ways to engage former members of the SILC in activities and work relative to foster the independent philosophy.

It is the responsibility of the SILC in its efforts to implement the State Plan for Independent Living to work toward the following:

- Ensure that services and supports are provided in a culturally competent manner;
- Seek to provide services in a manner that offers customer choice and enhances natural supports, when appropriate;
- Integration of the philosophy of “choice” into supports and services to people with disabilities;
- Increase education in schools with both students and faculty as well as the community about disability and individuals with disabilities;
- Advocate for the provision of employment supports that are tailored to the unique needs of individuals with specific disabilities.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Maintenance of current Part B programs (direct services) to ensure that those individuals receiving services continue to receive services.
  - a. A review of the program(s) will be undertaken by the SILC to assure that the needs of people with significant disabilities are being met and make recommendations for change.
2. Enhancement of the SILC website to increase its ability to serve the prime information sharing network relative to independent living. The website is viewed as a tool and to enhance communication between individuals with disabilities, stakeholders, advocates, and the public, in order to lead to increased awareness and participation in activities that promote the independent living of individuals with disabilities.
3. The resource plan for the SILC will be maintained (administration, SILC meetings support, and conferences/training in order to appropriately support the activities and members of the SILC.

**UNANTICIPATED FUNDING**

Should unanticipated revenues become available to the SILC, the allocation of these funds shall be subject to the review and vote of the SILC membership, in consultation with the designated state unit.

**CHAPTER 2 PROGRAM – Sight Services for Independent Living**

**GOALS:**

1. The continued provision of independent living services to older individuals to assist them in remaining independent in their home and community.
2. The expansion of efforts to educate the public regarding the challenges and needs of this population.

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3. The continued provision of training to peer support groups regarding self advocacy and independent living skill

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Increase public awareness regarding the challenges facing older individuals with vision impairment through, brochures, presentations, press releases.
2. Continue collaboration with existing networks, such as Service Link, Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Elderly and Adult Services, Granite State Independent Living, Governor's Commission on Disability through joint presentations and expanding and sharing information and resources.
3. Continue to provide individual in-home independent living services
4. Evaluate the extent of each Peer Support group's need for on-going support
5. Update resource guide
6. Evaluate inventory of adaptive aids and devices
7. Work collaboratively with New Hampshire Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Cultural Diversity Committee to outreach to under represented minority groups.

**Section 10: Outreach (Sections 704(l) and 713(7) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.32)**

The State reaches out to populations, including minority groups and urban and rural populations that are unserved or underserved by the programs funded under Chapter 1.

**Attachment I– Outreach to Unserved or Underserved Population Groups**

The current population of the state is 1,288,000, of which over fifty percent reside in the two southern most counties of Rockingham and Hillsborough, concentrating half of the population in less than twenty percent of the state's landmass. While the state is experiencing significant population growth, much of the state continues to be rural, with population density decreasing significantly in the three northern counties of Coos, Grafton, and Carroll, where approximately 9.1% of the population reside.

The racial demographics of the state, while still significantly homogenous, with 96 percent of the population white, are undergoing change. Asian Americans make up the second most prevalent race in the state at 1.3 percent, with African Americans or Blacks comprising 0.7 percent.

The state, over the past ten years, has seen a significant influx of immigrants specifically in the Nashua-Manchester area. A majority of these new residents are from Africa, South America, Central America, and countries from the dissolved Soviet Bloc.

**ACTIVITIES:**

Collaborate with the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation's Cultural Diversity Committee to identify opportunities for partnership

Hold presentations for Service Links, ethnic Community Centers, informational and referral organizations, and community-based organizations providing services in local communities

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Continue the collaboration with the Governor's Commission on Disability to host the Legislative Awareness Day

Collaborate with community-based organizations such as Granite State Independent Living to develop a sustained outreach capacity.

Utilize the SILC website to reach community members

**Section 11: Extent and Scope of IL Services** (Sections 7(30), 704(e) and 713(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.43)

- (a) Attachment 1 describes all IL services to be provided under the SPIL to meet the objectives in Section 10.
- (b) The State provides the following IL core services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities:
  - (1) Information and referral;
  - (2) IL skills training;
  - (3) Peer counseling (including cross-disability peer counseling); and
  - (4) Individual and systems advocacy,
- (c) The IL core services may be provided directly by the DSU, or through grant or contract. While the State is required to provide these services, it may fund the services using funds from any source, e.g., part B or part C, Chapter 1, State funds, or other funds.
- (d) In addition, the State provides the following IL services to individuals and groups of individuals with significant disabilities<sup>5</sup>:
  - (1)  Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services;
  - (2)  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);
  - (3)  Rehabilitation technology;
  - (4)  Mobility training;

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<sup>5</sup> Insert an "X" or check mark for each IL service that will be made available. It is not necessary to insert any projection of numbers of consumers to be served.

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- (5)  Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services;
- (6)  Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services;
- (7)  Surveys, directories, and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation opportunities, and accessible transportation, and other support services;
- (8)  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;
- (9)  Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities;
- (10)  Supported living;
- (11)  Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation;
- (12)  Physical rehabilitation;
- (13)  Therapeutic treatment;
- (14)  Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices;
- (15)  Individual and group social and recreational services;
- (16)  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;
- (17)  Services for children with significant disabilities;
- (18)  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;
- (19)  Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities assisted under this Act for similar services in the future;
- (20)  Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities; and
- (21)  Such other services as may be necessary and not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

**Attachment I: Scope and Arrangement for IL Services**

Information and Referral, Skills Training, Advocacy, Peer Support Counseling are provided by the only center for independent living, Granite State Independent Living. Services such as sign language interpreters; personal care attendant services; transportation; services related to securing housing or shelter; recreation opportunities; consumer information services; education and training; advocacy and self-empowerment skills; and community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities necessary for living in the community.

The Chapter 2 Program, Sight Services for Independent Living, provides the following services to individuals who are age 55 and older who are blind or visually impaired: rehabilitation teaching, low vision screening and training, orientation and mobility training, peer counseling, and information and referral. The intent is to enhance the lives of individuals who live independently through the provision of timely professional services, individual community integration, peer support and empowerment.

The State Independent Living Program, through a contract with the only center for independent living, Granite State Independent Living, has been providing the following services to individuals with disabilities who are found eligible by center staff:

- Housing: Limited to home modifications to include ramps and modifications to an entry. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000.00 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.
- Rehabilitation Technology: To facilitate the acquisition of other services. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000.00 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.
- Mobility Training: Orientation services will be provided to individuals who are blind or visually impaired, who have already had orientation and mobility training, but who might need additional orientation, such as when someone moves to a new location. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000.00 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.
- Transportation: To facilitate access to other independent living services, accessible transportation will be provided and also transportation to individuals who cannot drive, but who cannot, or do not need, accessible transportation. Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000.00 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.
- Prosthesis and other Appliances and Devices: Subject to financial need, application of comparable benefits, and a \$5,000.00 per annum limit unless waived by the provider.

In addition to these services the IL center has been providing case management services that include eligibility determination, plan development and monitoring, determination of financial need, and exploration of other resources.

Contracts to provide services will be with organizations who are approved Vocational Rehabilitation

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providers and who are consumer controlled, as evidenced by a governing board that is made up of at least 51 percent individuals with disabilities.

Over the period of this State Plan for Independent Living, the SILC will be assessing the independent living needs in the state and evaluating the current service program(s) to determine to what extent it meets the needs of individuals with disabilities.

**Section 12: Eligibility, Records, IL Plans, and Notice of Client Assistance Program**

12.1 Eligibility for Receipt of Services (Sections 7(15)(B) and 703 of the Act; 34 CFR 364.51)

- (a) Individuals with significant disabilities are eligible for services provided under the SPIL.
- (b) To be eligible, an individual is one:
  - (1) Who has a significant physical, mental, cognitive, or sensory impairment;
  - (2) Whose ability to function independently in the family or community or whose ability to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment is substantially limited; and
  - (3) For whom the delivery of IL services will improve the ability to function, continue functioning, or move towards functioning independently in the family or community or to continue in employment.

12.2 Consumer Service Record (Sections 704(m)(4)(B), 725(c)(8) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.53)

A consumer service record (CSR) will be maintained for each consumer of services, other than information and referral, which will contain documentation that the consumer is eligible or ineligible for IL services, the information required for the annual performance report under 34 CFR 364.36 and 366.50(h), and an IL plan (ILP) or a waiver as described in SPIL Section 13.3.

12.3 IL Plans (Sec. 704 (e) and 725(c)(14) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.52)

The State provides IL services under Chapter 1 to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an ILP 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.

12.4 Notice about the Client Assistance Program (Sections 20 and 704(m)(1) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.30)

All recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 1 that provide services to individuals with significant disabilities advise those individuals seeking or receiving IL services about the availability of the Client Assistance Program under section 112 of the Act, the purposes of the services provided under such program, and information on the means of seeking assistance under such program.

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**Section 13: Statewide Network of Centers for Independent Living (CILs)**

13.1 Network Design (Sec. 704 (g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(a))

The State has developed a design for the establishment of a statewide network of CILs that comply with the standards and assurances set forth in section 725 of the Act.

13.2 Unserved and Underserved Areas and Priorities (Sec. 704 (g) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.25(b))

- (a) The network design:
  - (i) identifies unserved and underserved geographic areas of the State; and
  - (ii) includes an order of priority for the establishment of CILs in those areas.

**Attachment I: Network of Centers**

Over the past several years, there has been a concerted effort to develop satellite services in the northern and western regions, as well as a small satellite in Hillsborough County. These satellites have been funded with available monies as they have become available.

The issue continues to be around the capacity of the state to support additional Independent Living Centers. The need of Centers to rely on resources which are additional to Title VII, Part C funds, such as other Federal sources of resources, private donations, and community support, make opening additional centers in NH problematic. While the population of the State is steadily increasing, the geographic configuration of that population remains in the southern third of the state. The SILC will conduct a needs assessment to determine whether this premise continues to be valid during the period of this State Plan.

Should additional Part C funds become available over the period of this State Plan, the funds should be provided to the current Center to fund the satellite system.

**Section 14: Communication, Cooperation, and Coordination** (Sections 704(I-k) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.26 and .27)

- (a) The State takes steps that maximize the communication, cooperation, coordination, and working relationships among --
  - (1) the SILS program, the SILC and CILs; and
  - (2) the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC, other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues, and other public and private entities, including Indian Tribal Councils, determined to be appropriate by the SILC.
- (b) The State ensures that services funded under Chapter 1 will complement and be coordinated with other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the IL program for older individuals who are blind funded

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under Chapter 2 of Title VII.

- (c) The State coordinates Federal and State funding for CILs and SILS.

**Attachment I: Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities**

Over the period of the previous State Plan, significant personnel changes occurred in the SILC, the representative from the DSU to the SILC, and Granite State Independent Living. As a result, the working relationship between these major partners is evolving. Traditionally, the Center has provided orientation and training for new Council members. The Center has been the sole contractor under the state independent living program.

Granite State Independent Living is well represented on the SILC by the Executive Director, Assistant Director, and a staff person, who has held the position of an officer of the SILC.

The SILC has made a concerted effort over the past three years to outreach to disability organizations throughout the state in order to build a partnership network that can positively impact upon the independent living needs of individuals with disabilities. The effort to partner with entities that have traditionally not been part of the established IL system, but who have embraced the IL philosophy, is ongoing. The results of this effort are not yet known, but will be assessed by the SILC during the next two years.

The SILC has partnered with the State Rehabilitation Council to hold two joint meetings, one with the RSA Regional Commissioner and the other with the RSA Commissioner. At both meetings, individuals with disabilities were recognized for their achievements, as well as community based organizations, and employers. The collaboration around common issues will continue over the next three years.

**Section 15: Evaluation Plan** (Sec. 704 (n) of the Act; 34 CFR 364.38)

- (a) The State establishes a method for the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the SPIL:
- (1) In meeting the State's objectives and timelines for meeting those objectives;
  - (2) In the satisfaction of individuals with disabilities; and
  - (3) In meeting the objectives established in Section 9 of the SPIL.
- (b) The State agrees to annually submit the results of DSU and SILC evaluation activities, including the most recent evaluation of Title VII consumer satisfaction, with the annual performance report to RSA.

**Attachment III: Evaluation Plan (34 CFR 364.21(g) and 364.38)**

The priority statement of the SILC for the current SPIL continues to be that the SILC will advocate on behalf of individuals with disabilities to have equal access to and inclusion in all activities available to individuals without disabilities. All of the objectives in the SPIL are to further this priority.

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The executive committee of the SILC will review at its quarterly meeting the activities set forth in the SPIL, in order that any adjustments can be made as a result of available resources and the progress in achieving the activities.

The upgrade and maintenance of the SILC website as an instrument to provide up-to-date and accurate information to all individuals with disabilities is a foundation of this priority. The website was used as alternative and supplement to information and input gathering for the most recent Public Forums. The response to the web-based format was positive, and has provided the SILC with another opportunity to expand its efforts.

As a result of the four Public Forums held in April 2004, the SILC now has good basic information relative to the concerns and gaps around independent living that individuals with disabilities face in NH upon which to begin to identify next steps which will support the priority of equal access and inclusion.

Building upon the previous SPIL, the SILC will complete a review of the current programs that assist persons with disabilities to assure that the needs of people with disabilities are being met and addressed. This activity will include a comprehensive review of the services provided under contract(s) through quarterly reports from the contractor(s). This review will be centered on the cost for services, the numbers served, the quality of services received. This will assist the SILC in making an evaluation of the services and their impact in addressing the goals and priorities of the SPIL. In order to insure that the information is accurate and truly represents the experiences of consumers of the contract services, the contractor(s) will be required to provide the SILC with quarterly customer satisfaction data; as well as actual customer satisfaction surveys for the previous quarter. (with identifying information deleted, in order to keep the consumer's identity confidential). While over the course of the previous SPIL, the sole contractor was requested to provide information on customer satisfaction, due to the fact that the contractor was re-designing its customer satisfaction capacity, very little customer satisfaction information was made available to the SILC.

At the end of Year 1 of the SPIL, the SILC will review all of the relevant data to ascertain whether the current method of providing services to individuals with disabilities is the best expenditure of funds.

The DSU and the contractor(s) will be required to provide data on independent living expenditures on a quarterly basis to the executive committee and the full SILC.

The SILC made significant effort in inviting public input into the SPIL, through the April 2004 Public Forums. The input received is reflected in the general provisions of the SPIL. The section from the Forum Report regarding suggestions for the SILC to consider is below:

**EXCERPT FROM REPORT TO SILC ON FINDINGS FROM APRIL FORUMS**

There were themes and patterns of responses evident in the various forums. The barriers to independent living in the state identified in this process did not necessarily point to new issues but rather present an inter-related and sometimes complex web of issues that make the challenges of

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living independently a real challenge.

What follows is an attempt to describe and define these issues from the perspective of individuals living with a disability, their family and friends, those who provide services and political representatives. The appendices will provide more detail by geographical area. This will enable follow-up or focused efforts to be made if indicated.

### 1. Funding limitations including recent budget cuts in Health and Human Services

- ⇒ There was general agreement that many barriers would be more surmountable if there was more funding available. Mention was made of the reality that the state is minimally funded and thus receives less federal funding than many other states. With the heavy dependence on property taxes for running the state there is little expectation that more state or local funding is forthcoming.
- ⇒ For some individuals with less severe disabilities cuts in eligibility often impacts them first. This can result in the loss of the modest support (in the form of personal care, housing or employment support, etc.) that enables them to live independently.
- ⇒ There is concern that the cuts and reductions impacting the system will only create bigger problems in the future.

### 2. Accessible transportation

- ⇒ Access to affordable and accessible transportation was a significant barrier throughout the state. There were many personal stories about how this barrier affects so many other aspects of living independently. These include the ability to get to and from a place of employment, renders already limited affordable and accessible housing impractical because there is no way to get around, limits participation in community, social and recreational activities to name just a few.
- ⇒ The issue of accessible transportation was identified as a barrier that has long been identified, but never satisfactorily solved. This finding is supported in the recent publication by **The Policy Resource Center Institute for Health, Law, and Ethics**. In the Winter 2004 issue the topic was *Coordinating Existing Human Service Transportation Resources: Maximizing Resources and Economic Benefits*. In this report the authors state that:  
  
*Transportation is an essential community element that is too often overlooked. In New Hampshire, the failure to prioritize transportation issues at the state and community level is difficult to understand for two reasons. First, experts have repeatedly documented statewide unmet need in transportation. Second, New Hampshire inefficiently spends heavily on human service transportation with the result being duplicative efforts, lack of coordination among service providers, and a weak transportation infrastructure. Importantly, national studies show that fixing the second may, in fact, fix the first.*
- ⇒ The report further suggests these next steps:

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1. Enact legislation on the oversight and channeling of Medicaid and other human service transportation funds through regional transportation brokers.
  2. Coordinate transportation services under select NHDHHS programs, with a priority on Medicaid coordination.
  3. Support and learn from the regional coordination currently underway in Concord, Greater Derry-Salem, North Country, Franklin-Laconia and Nashua.
3. Accessible and affordable housing
- ⇒ Accessible and affordable housing is limited for a variety of reasons. Some of the factors reported by participants were:
  - ⇒ Long waiting lists due to supply and demand
  - ⇒ Prohibitively high rent for the limited income of individuals with disabilities
  - ⇒ Undesirable or unmanageable location
  - ⇒ Lack of safety
  - ⇒ Limited subsidized units available, especially in some communities where there appears to be a desire to limit development.
4. Limited employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities
- ⇒ Competition for work is very tight in the present economy
  - ⇒ Wages are very low for most of jobs available for people with disabilities
  - ⇒ Employers are not always receptive to hiring people with disabilities if they perceive that there are too many accommodations that need to be made. There is a wide range of employment needs for people with disabilities
  - ⇒ There may be a negative impact on eligibility for other benefits if an individual with disabilities is employed
  - ⇒ Transportation to and from work can be an issue
5. Limited social and recreational activities
- ⇒ Getting to and from activities is often a major factor in people with disabilities getting involved in existing community activities.
  - ⇒ Some individuals do not have a personal support network to help get them out into the community.
  - ⇒ Some activities are held in buildings that are physically accessible.
  - ⇒ Some individuals report not feeling welcomed by others.
  - ⇒ Lack of opportunities to socialize and enjoy and interact with the community can lead to isolation and depression.
6. A confusing application process
- ⇒ The application process was described as very “user unfriendly”.
  - ⇒ There is a general perception that system is hard to navigate and individual success and satisfaction may vary depending on how you enter.

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- ⇒ There was also the opinion expressed that interpretation of eligibility varied by how and where someone enters the system.
- ⇒ There was a fear that some people who are in need and meet eligibility just give up because of frustration and lack of information and coordination.

### 7. No organization is fully representing the whole picture for people with disabilities.

- ⇒ Generally SILC was an organization that was familiar to participants. There appeared to be some confusion about the mission of SILC and its role vis a vis Granite State Independent Living and the Governor's Council on Disabilities. Regardless of this understanding there was a sense that there truly was no voice representing the full range of people with disabilities throughout the whole state.
- ⇒ There was some suggestion that a statewide educational and advocacy role might be an appropriate role for SILC.

### 8. Personal Care

- ⇒ Sometimes personal care can mean the difference for people living independently.
- ⇒ Budget cuts have impacted eligibility for some who receive services and also affected providers' ability to recruit, train and retain qualified staff

### 9. Physical barriers

- ⇒ Despite ADA there are still situations where there are physical barriers for people with a physical disability.
- ⇒ It is not always clear who to contact regarding a physical accessibility issue.

### 10. Transition

- ⇒ In addition to a difficult application process there are some gaps and disconnects for people moving through the system. These include coordination for those with dual eligibility and those moving from school into adult services.
- ⇒ The lack of supports and services available to individuals leaving the school may lead to service gaps that are not addressed when work can be done to keep the individual's needs met with a relatively modest investment rather than waiting until the needs are greater.

In addition, a public hearing on the SPIL for FY 2005, 2006, 2007, was held on June 10. The notice of the public hearing was published in the only statewide newspaper, the announcement was sent to over 90 organizations who provide services to, or represent, individuals with disabilities. The draft SPIL was posted on the SILC's website in order for individuals to provide comments, until 5:00 p.m., June 10. Individuals were invited to appear in person between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m., post their comments on the Website, or e-mail their comments to the SILC.