

## 2017-2019 SPIL

### Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA)

The following is a brief overview of the recent changes in WIOA and its impact as it relates to the VR and Independent Living Programs.

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) encompasses the activities planned by the State to achieve its specified independent living objectives and reflects the State's commitment to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements during the three years covered by the plan.

WIOA changed the administration and the development of the SPIL in the following key and important ways:

1. The Independent Living Program and Centers for Independent Living Services Programs were moved from the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, (better known as ACL). In essence, WIOA eliminated the director of the DSE (VR) from the SPIL development process, but VR continues to be the agency that acts as the grantee on behalf of the State for Title VII, Part B, Independent Living Services Program. VR (the current DSE) has general responsibilities and they are as follows:
  - a. Receive, account for, and disburse funds received by the State based on the SPIL
  - b. Provide administrative support services;
  - c. Keep such records and afford such access to such records as ACL finds to be necessary with respect to the programs;
  - d. Submits additional information or provide assurances as ACL may require with respect to the programs; and
  - e. Retain not more than 5% of the Part B funds received by the State for any fiscal year, as required to perform the responsibilities just mentioned.
2. WIOA requires that the SPIL be signed, as before by the Chairperson of the SILC and DSE, but now must be signed by at least 51 percent of the Directors of the Independent Living Centers. Basically, in order to have an approved SPIL under the new law, all three entities must sign. *Note:* States wishing to receive funding under Parts B and C of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended by WIOA, must submit an approvable three-year SPIL to ACL no later than 11:59 PM EST

June 30, 2016. The ACL Administrator may withhold, reduce, limit or terminate funding in accordance with the procedures described in Uniform Administrative Guidance at 2 CFR 200 if a State does not submit an approvable SPIL.

3. WIOA added a fifth category of core services 1) facilitate the transition of individuals with disabilities from nursing homes and other institutions to home and community residences, with requisite supports and services 2) provides assistance to individuals with significant disabilities who are at risk of entering institutions so that the individuals may remain in the community and 3) facilitate the transition of youth with significant disabilities, who were eligible for Individualized Education Plans and have completed their secondary education or otherwise left school, to postsecondary life.
4. WIOA added an additional function of the SILC, as appropriate, coordination of activities with other entities in the state that provide services similar to or complementary to IL services, such as entities that facilitate the provision of or provide long-term community based services and supports
5. The provision of independent living services for older blind individuals remains with the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

While there are still questions/interpretations of the new law the final regulations are not out yet.