

Attachment 2

ORIGINAL SECTIONS OF THE 2008 ARIZONA STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (SPIL)

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25

Provide an overview of the existing network of centers, including non-Part C-funded centers that comply with the standards and assurances in section 725 (b) and (c) of the Act, and the geographic areas and populations currently served by the centers.

3.1 Response: Arizona currently has five Centers for Independent Living (CILs) that provide a range of independent living services. The CILs are:

- **Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL)** located in Phoenix, Arizona, has a geographic service area that includes 9,225 square miles in Maricopa and northern parts of Pinal counties. In that area, the number of people with disabilities is estimated to be 504,992 (U.S. Census revised July 2005). ABIL is the fiscal agent and administrator for CyberCIL, until such time that it has the capacity to be self-sufficient

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).

3.2 Response: As a statewide council within a largely rural state, the AZ SILC continues to explore strategies that will make IL information, programs and services

accessible to residents of even the most remote regions of the State. Rural residents usually have access to very few providers, little or no accessible public transportation, and under-funded service delivery systems.

The AZ SILC will continue to take steps to identify gaps in service provision, identify communities and community leaders invested in growing the CIL network, and prepare advocates to address and accept the challenges to opening new centers. Among these are:

- **Objective D1:** The AZ SILC will focus on action steps that specifically call for an on-going analysis of gaps and the capacity of each center to meet the area's needs;
- **Objective D2:** While the goal of the AZ SILC and AZRSA is to continue to expand the network of CILs statewide, the Council and AZRSA recognize that the size and isolation of most rural communities in Arizona make the establishment of traditional centers impractical. The AZ DSU, with guidance and collaboration from the SILC will continue the expansion of CyberCil of Arizona, the innovative virtual center for independent living. Located at www.cybercil.com, the center offers access to the core services and other ancillary services for those individuals who cannot or choose not to use a traditional CIL. Supported by staff at the other centers, CyberCil will utilize a three-year Part B grant to build their capacity and conduct resource development activities to wean away from Part B;
- **Center Development:** The AZ SILC feels strongly that communities are best served by centers that have sturdy philosophical, programmatic, and financial underpinnings. AZ SILC believes that all existing CILs should be at a minimum funding threshold of \$300,000 before the development of any satellite offices. If, however, a community is unserved or underserved and does not have the

grassroots support to administer a CIL satellite office, AZ SILC will promote and support expanding the CIL network with a branch office of an existing CIL. AZ SILC has identified the following criteria for the creation of a new center or satellite office:

- An expressed desire by members of the community to have a CIL in their community. In the past, this expression often was a result of an AZ SILC outreach presentation;
- A commitment by grassroots advocates to work with an existing CIL as a mentor. The AZ SILC will provide technical assistance to the grassroots advocates related to the recommended procedures and legal requirements involved in establishing a CIL. The AZ SILC will also assist in coordinating a CIL mentor relationship, preferably with the CIL who has the responsibility for that part of the state; and,
- A demonstrated ability to create and manage a CIL. There must be an adequate number of interested and qualified people with disabilities to staff and administer the proposed center. The AZ SILC recognizes that there is a significant difference between expressing an interest in a center and actually being able to develop, staff, and administer one. It makes sense, therefore, to utilize the model successfully followed in Arizona and other states of creating a satellite of an existing center and eventually spinning it off to become a free-standing CIL;
- **Objective D2:** In order to strengthen the CIL network, the AZ SILC will coordinate efforts by a variety of community partners who will pursue state funding to establish and expand CIL branch and satellite offices; and,
- **Objective D2:** The AZ DSU, with guidance and collaboration from the SILC will continue an annual grant of \$20,000 in Part B funds awarded to DIRECT Independent Living Center in Tucson to

support the expansion of Cochise Ability, the consumer-controlled organization in Sierra Vista that will soon realize its potential to become the next CIL.