

Attachment 3

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2008 ARIZONA STATE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

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 19,339 square miles in Gila, Maricopa and 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 CyberCIL 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, AZ SILC will explore strategies to make IL information, programs and services accessible to the 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.

To assess and identify unserved or underserved areas and populations within the services areas of the five existing centers in Arizona, AZ SILC will compare and contrast the Arizona disability census demographic information in the databases of 1) American Community Survey (ACS), and the Current Population Survey (CPS) available on the U.S. Census website, 2) the Rural, Research and Training Center on Disability in Rural Communities at the University of Montana, and 3) the Employment and Disability Institute, Disability Statistics at Cornell University, with the information presented in the Centers' annual 704 Reports: with particular attention to Subpart II, Number and Types of Individuals with Significant Disabilities Receiving Services, Sections G, H, I, and J; Subpart III, Training and Technical Assistance Needed; and Subpart IV, Individual Services and Achievements.

To establish an order of priority for serving the unserved or underserved areas and populations AZ SILC will use as its basis the U.S Census information related to Arizona County disability demographic data and the Arizona County disability demographic data presented in the respective CILs' annual 704 Reports. The counties with the largest differences between the U.S. Census data and 704 data will be assigned the highest priorities. Two example of this system are:

- 3.2.1 According to the ACS data, 22.9% of the county's population in Pinal County are people with disabilities and Arizona Bridge to Independent Living (ABIL), the CIL responsible for Pinal County, listed 0 as the number of consumers served in their 2008 704 Report. Pinal County was assigned a high priority related to expanding IL service delivery because no persons with a disability were served.
- 3.2.2 According to the ACS data, 29.1% of the population in La Paz County are people with disabilities and SMILE, the CIL responsible for La Paz County, listed 2 as the number of consumers served in their 2008 704 Report.

La Paz County was assigned a high priority related to expanding IL service delivery because very few persons with a disability were served.

Additionally, the current CIL network has little or no physical presence and is unable to provide adequate services in Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Mohave and Santa Cruz Counties, as well as large areas of Apache, Cochise, Navajo, and Pinal counties.

AZ SILC in collaboration with the existing centers have agreed that priority for locating new branch offices should additional Part C funding become available shall be established in the following communities:

1. Casa Grande (Pinal County),
2. Kingman (Mohave County),
3. Parker (La Paz County)
4. Show Low area (Apache County), and
5. Sierra Vista (Cochise County).

As well as in identifying service provisions gaps, AZ SILC will continue to take steps to identify communities and community leaders interested and invested in growing the CIL network, and prepare those communities and community leaders' with information and strategies to address and accept the challenges associated with operating a CIL office. 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 is to continue to expand the network of CILs statewide, the Council recognizes that the size and isolation of most rural communities in Arizona make accessing a traditional center impractical and onerous for consumers residing in the rural areas. CyberCil of Arizona is an innovative website offering virtual access to the four core independent living services and other ancillary services for those individuals who cannot or choose not to use a traditional CIL. CyberCIL is located at www.cybercil.com. It is administered and supported by the staff of three of Arizona CILs. AZ SILC and the Arizona Rehabilitation

Services Administration (AZRSA) will continue to explore strategies on how to build CyberCIL's capacity, conduct resource development activities, and provide technical assistance to its board of directors and staff.

- **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 Part C funds in the amount of \$300,000 before consideration is given to requests for the establishment of new Part C funded CILs. The basis for this amount is related to an amount of \$250,000 cited in ILRU's Research Project, Identifying a Minimum Budget for Centers, in September 2001 and adjusted by 20% for inflation and other pertinent costs. If, however, a community is unserved or underserved AZ SILC will promote and support expanding the CIL network with branch offices of an existing CIL.

Contingent upon funding, AZ SILC will recommend to CILs additional branch offices, when AZ SILC becomes aware of local grassroots organizations that demonstrate the following:

- An expressed desire by members of the community to have a CIL office in their community.
 - Commitments by grassroots advocates to work with an existing CIL. The AZ SILC will provide technical assistance to the grassroots advocates related to the recommended procedures and legal requirements involved in operating a CIL branch office, and,
 - A demonstrated ability to create and manage a CIL branch office. There must be an adequate number of interested and qualified local people with disabilities to staff and administer a CIL branch office.
- **Objective D2:** In order to strengthen the CIL network, the AZ SILC will pursue state funding to establish and expand CIL branch offices; and with respect to any additional or new Part C funds allocated to the AZ CILs, in addition to and separate from the annual Part C allocation and COLA, the formula for disbursing those additional or

new funds shall be 50% of the total divided equally among the existing centers and 50% of the total divided based on the disability demographics of the respective centers' service area in relation to the total disability demographics of the state.

- **Objective D2:** AZ SILC, in collaboration with the Arizona CILs, will continue to develop and explore strategies on how to pursue additional funding for local consumer-controlled organizations to function as a branch office of the Arizona Independent Living Centers.