



State Plan Summary

The purpose of the 2021-2024 state plan is to empower people in Oregon who have disabilities to direct their lives, access their communities and fulfill their responsibilities at their desired level of independence.

Oregon's Independent Living System includes the following partners:

- 7 Centers for Independent Living
- The State Independent Living Council
- Oregon Commission for the Blind
- The Vocational Rehabilitation Program – a division of Oregon's Department of Human Services

The plan has three main goals:

- To obtain funding and support to provide increased Independent Living services to people with disabilities.
- To listen and respond to specific consumer needs.
- To educate and advocate for the Independent Living Philosophy.

Objectives for progressing toward these goals include:

- Reviewing and updating the formula and method for funding providers.
- Advocating for program funding, which includes working with partners to increase resources to meet the needs of Independent Living program consumers.
- Providing requested services to facilitate consumer goals, including in response to local, state, or national disasters.
- Helping to improve consumer access to health care.
- Advocating for expansion of transportation options.
- Advocating for expansion of housing access.
- Educating partners and funders about the value of IL services.
- Advocating for change in local and statewide systems, to address issues impacting consumer needs.

- Holding an Independent Living conference to provide needed training and technical assistance.
- Pursuing a statewide youth leadership training initiative.

Section 1.3 of the plan explains how progress will be measured for each objective.

An evaluation process is undertaken annually to examine the progress toward the goals and how effective they are. The State Plan Committee of the State Independent Living Council and its Evaluation & Monitoring Work Group review Program Performance Reports, consumer satisfaction survey results and other information at least once each year to determine how well the plan is working.

Financial resources, including amounts from various sources, are explained in Section 1.5. This includes a total of \$2,191,493 in Federal and State dollars used for services. \$2,144,449 for services provided by seven Centers for Independent Living and \$47,044 for services provided by Oregon Commission for the Blind.

The different services provided are described in Section 2, Table 2.1A. The table shows which type of funding is used for each type of service and whether the service is provided by Centers for Independent Living, Oregon Commission for the Blind, or both.

Outreach will be done in both underserved and unserved areas. In areas with a designated Center for Independent Living, it is recognized that there are not enough resources available, causing parts of the area or certain groups of people to be underserved. All the currently funded service areas are considered to have underserved populations. In these areas, the designated Center for Independent Living will develop targeted outreach plans for groups of people and communities it identifies as underserved.

27% of Oregon's population with disabilities lives in unserved counties, without an identified and funded Center for Independent Living. In these areas, as well as in served and underserved areas, the State Independent Living Council goes outreach to assess needs and recruit Council members.

The Independent Living Program collaborates and coordinates with many other State, Federal and private organizations to achieve the goals of the plan. Section 2.3 identifies specific groups, which focus on the following topics:

- Employment
- Health and Human Services (things that help people remain stable, meeting basic needs)
- Culture/Equity/Inclusion

- Housing
- Veterans
- Transportation
- Education
- Corrections
- Tribes
- Emergency Management

Section 3.1 describes the network of Centers for Independent Living across Oregon. This includes:

- **Abilitree**, serving Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties.
- **Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living**, serving Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler counties.
- **HASL** (Handicap Awareness & Support League, Inc.), serving Jackson and Josephine counties.
- **Independent Living Resources**, serving Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas counties.
- **Lane Independent Living Alliance**, serving Lane county.
- **SPOKES Unlimited**, serving Klamath and Lake counties.
- **Umpqua Valley disAbilities Network**, serving Douglas county.

The Federal government provides funds directly to five of these Centers (all except Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living and Lane Independent Living Alliance). Each of the five Federally funded Centers also received Federal CARES Act funds (one-time funds) to support the COVID-19-related needs of the Centers and people with disabilities in their service areas. The plan also allows these Centers to support needs beyond their service areas in response to emergencies/disasters.

The State of Oregon provides a combination of Federal funds and State funds to all seven Centers.

Section 3.2 explains how funds are distributed to the network of centers and how the network may grow or be adjusted. A minimum base amount of funding is identified (\$250,000 for most Centers and \$429,413 for Independent Living Resources, due to its large population. In addition to the minimum base funding, additional ongoing funds are distributed according to a funding plan. That plan brings each of the current Centers to a specific level known as the Annual Adequate Funding Level. That level was identified

by using certain standards to calculate the cost to provide services to at least five percent of the people with disabilities in each of the service areas.

When new funds become available, they are distributed across existing Centers according to the percentage of people with disabilities living in each area. This approach continues until the Annual Adequate Funding Level is reached for each Center. Table 3.2a in the plan shows the Annual Adequate Funding Level for each service area.

When funds are cut or reduced, the formula is used to distribute available funds. If a Center is no longer able to provide services for any reason, other organizations may submit plans for providing services in the area. Proposals are reviewed and a new service provider is awarded a contract to serve the area. While a new service provider is being identified, the funds can be temporarily divided equally among existing Centers for up to a twelve-month period.

Once funding for all existing Centers has reached the Adequate Funding Level, at least the minimum base funding amount will be made available in a new area. Areas are funding in the order shown below. In this case, awarding a contract for a Center for Independent Living in the new area follows the same process used in existing areas when a Center will no longer provide services.

1. Salem Region (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill)
2. South Coast Region (Coos and Curry)
3. Central Willamette Valley/Coast Region (Linn, Benton, and Lincoln)
4. North Coast Region (Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook)
5. Columbia Gorge Region (Hood River, Sherman, and Wasco)

The Designated State Entity (DSE) agrees to receive, distribute, and account for the funds supporting the Independent Living Program. The plan identifies the Vocational Rehabilitation Program within Oregon's Department of Human Services the Designated State Entity. Section 4 of the plan explains the processes the DSE will use for granting and distributing funds, how they will oversee the Federal funds received (Part B Funds), and what staff support they will provide. This section of the plan also describes requirements of the State that are additional to Federal law.

The Oregon State Independent Living Council (SILC) is a consumer-controlled council established by the Governor as separate from other government agencies. This ensures the Council is free to carry out its work without interference. Section 5.1 explains the Council's legal status and how its autonomy is assured. Section 5.2 explains the resource plan that funds the Council so it can perform its Federal duties

and authorities. This includes a total of \$377,387 annually. The process for developing and distributing the resource plan to the SILC is also described.

Section 5.3 describes how SILC members are appointed by the Governor. The Council reviews the State's population to maintain good representation from among its members. The process for selecting the Council Chairperson is described, as well as how vacancies are filled, and term-limits are maintained. This ensures the Council is following requirements in Federal law.

Section 6 confirms that the State Independent Living Council, Centers for Independent Living, and the Designated State Entity are legally authorized to carry out their duties in the plan.

The Designated State Entity acknowledges its role and responsibilities in Section 7.

In Section 8, the State Independent Living Council Chairman is identified and gives assurance that the Council complies with Federal law. The Chairman also agrees that the Council will maintain the listed Indicators of Minimum Compliance regarding the functions, authorities, and requirements for operating the State's Independent Living Council.

Section 9 contains the signatures of the SILC Chairperson and the directors of Oregon's network of Centers for Independent Living. These signatures indicate that Oregon's State Independent Living Council and the Centers for Independent Living agree with and intend to fully carry out the content of the state plan, and that the plan is complete and ready for submission to the Federal Administration for Community Living that oversees the Independent Living Program.