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State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

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State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part I: Assurances

Section 1: Legal Basis and Certifications

1.1 The designated State unit (DSU) eligible to submit the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL or the plan) and

authorized under State law to perform the functions of the State under the State Independent Living Services (SILS) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL) programs.

the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services.

1.2 The separate State agency eligible to submit the plan and authorized under State law to provide vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals who are blind.

NA

1.3 The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) that meets the requirements of section 705 of the Act and is authorized to perform the functions outlined in section 705(c) of the Act in the State.

the Mississippi Statewide Independent Living Council.

1.4 The DSU and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, and the SILC are authorized to jointly develop, sign and submit this SPIL on behalf of the State, and have adopted or otherwise formally approved the SPIL. Yes

1.5 The DSU, and, if applicable, the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, may legally carry out each provision of the plan and will comply with all applicable Federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the three-year period it receives funding under the SPIL. Yes

1.6 The SPIL is the basis for State operation and administration of the program. All provisions of the SPIL are consistent with State law. Yes

1.7 The representative of the DSU and, if applicable, of the separate State agency authorized to provide VR services to individuals who are blind, who has the authority under State law to receive, hold, and disburse Federal funds made available under the SPIL and to submit the SPIL jointly with the SILC chairperson is H.S. McMillan, Executive Director.

Section 2: SPIL Development

2.1 The plan shall be reviewed and revised not less than once every three years, to ensure the existence of appropriate planning, financial support and coordination, and other assistance to appropriately address, on a statewide and comprehensive basis, the needs in the State for: Yes

- The provision of State independent living services;
- The development and support of a statewide network of centers for independent living;
- Working relationships between programs providing independent living services and independent living centers, the vocational rehabilitation program established under title I, and other programs providing services for individuals with disabilities.

2.2 The DSU and SILC conduct public meetings to provide all segments of the public, including interested groups, organizations and individuals, an opportunity to comment on the State plan prior to its submission to the Commissioner and on any revisions to the approved State plan. Yes

2.3 The DSU and SILC establish and maintain a written description of procedures for conducting public meetings in accordance with the following requirements. The DSU and SILC shall provide: Yes

- appropriate and sufficient notice of the public meetings;
- reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication in the conduct of the public meetings, including providing sign language interpreters and audio-loops; and
- public meeting notices, written material provided prior to or at the public meetings, and the approved State plan in accessible formats for individuals who rely on alternative modes of communication.

2.4 At the public meetings to develop the State plan, the DSU and SILC identify those provisions in the SPIL that are State-imposed requirements beyond what would be required to comply with the regulations in 34 CFR parts 364, 365, 366, and 367. Yes

2.5 The DSU will seek to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or Yes

approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under a project funded under chapter 2 of title VII of the Act and that the DSU determines to be effective.

2.6 The DSU and SILC actively consult, as appropriate, in the development of the State plan with the director of the Client Assistance Program (CAP) authorized under section 112 of the Act.	Yes

Section 3: Independent Living Services

3.1 The State, directly or through grants or contracts, will provide IL services with Federal, State, or other funds	Yes
3.2 Independent living services shall be provided to individuals with significant disabilities in accordance with an independent living plan 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.	Yes
3.3 All service providers will use formats that are accessible to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about: • the availability of the CAP authorized by section 112 of the Act; • the purposes of the services provided under the CAP; and • how to contact the CAP.	Yes
3.4 Participating service providers meet all applicable State licensure or certification requirements.	Yes

Section 4: Eligibility

4.1 Any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), is eligible for IL	Yes

services under the SILS and CIL programs authorized under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act. Any individual may seek information about IL services under these programs and request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities, as appropriate. The determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

4.2 Service providers apply eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.	Yes
4.3 Service providers do not impose any State or local residence requirement that excludes any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services from receiving IL services.	Yes

Section 5: Staffing Requirements

5.1 Service provider staff includes personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.	Yes
5.2 To the maximum extent feasible, a service provider makes available personnel able to communicate: • with individuals with significant disabilities who rely on alternative modes of communication, such as manual communication, nonverbal communication, nonverbal communication devices, Braille or audio tapes, and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act; and • in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities whose English proficiency is limited and who apply for or receive IL services under title VII of the Act.	Yes
5.3 Service providers establish and maintain a program of staff development for all classes of	Yes

positions involved in providing IL services and, if appropriate, in administering the CIL program. The staff development programs emphasize improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

5.4 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.	Yes

Section 6: Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

6.1 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements and will adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds.	Yes

Section 7: Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

7.1 In addition to complying with applicable EDGAR recordkeeping requirements, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will maintain records that fully disclose and document:	Yes

- the amount and disposition by the recipient of that financial assistance;
- The total cost of the project or undertaking in connection with which the financial assistance is given or used;
- the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources;
- compliance with the requirements of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act and Part 364 of the regulations; and
- other information that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit.

7.2 With respect to the records that are required by 34 CFR 364.35, all recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will submit reports that the Commissioner determines to be appropriate.	Yes
7.3 All recipients of financial assistance under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will provide access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, to the records listed in 34 CFR 364.37 for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews.	Yes

Section 8: Protection, Use, and Release of Personal Information

8.1 Each service provider will adopt and implement policies and procedures to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names in accordance with the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a)(1-6).	Yes

Section 9: Signatures

As the authorized signatories, we will sign, date and retain in the files of the state agency(ies) and the Statewide Independent Living Council the Part I: Assurances, 1-8, and the separate Certification of Lobbying forms ED-80-0013 (available inMS Word and PDF formats) for the state independent living program (Part B) and the centers for independent living program (Part C).	Section 9: Signature for SILC Chairperson

The effective date of this SPIL is October 1, 2010.

Name	Mary Meruvia
Title	Chairperson
Signed?	Yes
Date signed	05/13/2010

Section 9: Signature for DSU Director

Name	H.S. McMillan
Title	Executive Director
Signed?	Yes
Date signed	05/13/2010

Section 9: Signature for Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind

Is there a Separate State Agency for Individuals Who Are Blind?	No
Name	NA
Title	
Signed?	No
Date signed	

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
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Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 1

1.1 Goals and Mission

Describe the overall goals and mission of the State's IL programs and services. The SPIL must address the goals and mission of both the SILS and the CIL programs, including those of the State agency for individuals who are blind as they relate to the parts of the SPIL administered by that agency.

Goal Name: Improve quality of life and independence of Mississippians with disabilities.

Goal Description: The mission of the State's Independent Living Services Program is to improve the quality of life and independence of Mississippians with significant disabilities.

The mission of Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi (CIL) is "dedicated to the empowerment of individuals with disabilities". LIFE's goal is to assist individuals with disabilities, of any age and any type of disability, in their efforts to live independently in their own homes and communities through the provision of a variety of independent living services, particularly the four core services of information and referral, skills training, peer support and advocacy.

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services' (MDRS)(DSU), through the Office of Special Disability Programs, mission is to improve the quality of life and independence of Mississippians with significant disabilities by providing comprehensive independent living services on a statewide basis. It is the intent of MDRS to increase the availability of independent living services across the State through the implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The SPIL objectives address several specific issues of primary concern to the independent living network and the SILC. The goal of these services will enhance and improve the individual's ability to live more independently in the home or community.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State: Mississippi

Agency: Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Plan for: 2011-2013

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Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 2

1.2 Objectives

1.2A. Specify the objectives to be achieved and the time frame for achieving them.

Goal(s) from Section 1.1	Objective to be achieved	Time frame start date	Time frame end date
Improve quality of life and independence of Mississippians with disabilities.	The SILC and DSU will jointly develop and sign the State's Plan for Independent Living Services by: holding public forums and meetings as necessary in order to gain input from stakeholders The SILC will Monitor, Review, and Evaluate	10/01/2011	09/30/2013

the SPIL by:

Meeting quarterly, reviewing CIL and DSU activities, and educating SILC members using I&E money.

The SILC will coordinate with the SRC by:

A SILC representative serves on the SRC.

The SILC will ensure open meetings by:

The SILC will utilize public service announcements and community outlets for information dissemination and continued public awareness.

Provide quality independent living services to individuals with disabilities in Mississippi by:

MDRS will continue to provide Chapter 1, Part B and Chapter 2 services (through OIB).

LIFE will continue to provide independent living services, particularly the Core services.

Improve quality of life and independence of Mississippians with disabilities.	Provide ongoing orientation to SILC members on Title VII Regulations and services.	10/01/2011	09/30/2013
Improve quality of life and independence of Mississippians with disabilities.		10/01/2011	09/30/2013

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State: Mississippi

Agency: Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

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Part II: Narrative

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities - Screen 3

1.2 Objectives

1.2B Describe the steps planned regarding outreach to populations in the State that are unserved or underserved by programs under title VII, including minority groups and urban and rural populations.

- Identify the populations to be designated for targeted outreach efforts

Mississippi continues to be a State with broad social economic and ethnic diversity. The rural nature of this State and the diversity of the population present challenges for developing programs and policies that will result in inclusion for all groups and geographical areas. Members of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians who have significant disabilities continue to be an underserved population due to mistrust of service providers outside of the Tribe. This fact is coupled with language and cultural differences. Because of this the State and the CIL both maintain various formal and informal cooperative agreements and memorandums of understanding with public and private agencies. These agreements promote cooperation and coordination of programs and services. This approach results in a network of resources for Mississippians with significant disabilities. Public relations activities assist the State and the CIL in assuring that information and referral procedures are disseminated to professionals and other interested individuals. The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services continues to implement an on-going Cultural Diversity Initiative that includes outreach to underserved and under represented groups training for personnel and public awareness activities. LIFE makes every effort to provide services to Native American Hispanic Vietnamese and other ethnically diverse populations. In order to assure public access to services both MDRS and LIFE maintain a network of offices and/or community rehabilitation facilities that are strategically located across the State. Due to the growth in home and community based waiver programs MDRS has added additional Counselors across the state to improve its ability to provide services to more individuals with significant disabilities. The additional staff will have a direct impact on the outreach and number of individuals provided services in unserved and underserved populations and minority groups.

- Identify the geographic areas (i.e., communities) in which the targeted populations reside

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians Reservation land is scattered across several counties primarily in East Central Mississippi. The Vietnamese population is located across the southern coast of Mississippi.

- Describe how the needs of individuals with significant disabilities from minority group backgrounds will be

addressed

The Office for Independent Living funded under Title VII Part C is operated by Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi Inc. LIFE has office locations in Tupelo, Greenwood, McComb, Hattiesburg, Biloxi and Jackson (state office). These offices are strategically located in areas of the state to provide access to as many Mississippians with disabilities as possible including those un-served and underserved populations (See Map). LIFE offers the four core independent living services of information and referral peer support skills training and individual as well as systems advocacy. LIFE also offers a variety of other independent living services such as transition from institutionalization back into the community transition for children and youth with disabilities service coordination for all individuals with disabilities the purchase of services when funding is available through fund raising efforts or third party payments and more. LIFE will continue to conduct a Consumer Satisfaction Survey each year to seek consumer input and assess areas of need. Information from the Consumer Satisfaction Survey is used to assist the LIFE Board of Trustees and staff to determine improvements needed in service provision and if there needs to be an increase in efforts in the areas of outreach advocacy community education and awareness.

Activity 1 – The core independent living services will continue to be provided to at least 300 people with significant disabilities under the age of 21 during the next three years through the Transitional Living project entitled "Healthy Opportunities for Transition in Mississippi" and a contract with the Children's Medical Program;

Activity 2 – LIFE staff will continue to make referrals to other sources, numbering more than 75 currently, such as the State Independent Living Program, and seek out new referral sources through 2011;

Activity 3 – LIFE will continue to provide the core Independent Living Services to individuals of both male and female, in proportion to the States population;

Activity 4 – Services will continue to be provided proportionally to individuals from all racial groups. LIFE will make every effort to improve our outreach to un-served and under served populations in North, Central and South Mississippi. Board and staff member development training will focus on outreach to under served populations as well.

Activity 5 – Services will continue to be provided proportionately to individuals of all ages;

Activity 6 – The services offered by LIFE are advertised through all available and applicable media and information dissemination resources (e.g., local newspapers, consumer/advocacy group newsletters, meetings and conferences). LIFE will continue the newsletter entitled "LIFE Lines" through fiscal year 2011, which is distributed to consumers,

family members, service providers and local and state government officials statewide. We will continue to be featured in other advocacy and consumers organizations newsletters and promote LIFE through the media during the year. We will make every effort to participate in conferences and meetings targeting the disability population in Mississippi. Activity 7 – Special outreach efforts continue to be utilized to reach underrepresented groups. LIFE will make every effort to develop newsletter articles and brochures targeting our Hispanic, Vietnamese and Native American populations. We will participate in conferences and meetings targeting these populations and attempt to develop Board and staff membership from the under served populations.

The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services has offices located throughout the entire state. This allows the State to provide services to all areas and individuals.

The SILC is mandated to include at least one representative of the director of the 121 project. Through this mandatory membership, the 121 project is able to make the SILC aware of the independent living needs of members of the MBCI who have significant disabilities.

1.3 Financial Plan

Describe in sections 1.3A and 1.3B, below, the financial plan for the use of Federal and non-Federal funds to meet the SPIL objectives.

1.3A Financial Plan Tables

Complete the financial plan tables covering years 1, 2 and 3 of this SPIL. For each funding source, provide estimated dollar amounts anticipated for the applicable uses. The financial plan table should include only those funding sources and amounts that are intended to support one or more of the objectives identified in section 1.2 of the SPIL. To the extent possible, the tables and narratives must reflect the applicable financial information from centers for independent living. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about completing the financial tables and narratives.

Year 1 - 2011 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		$302,000		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			$826,962	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		$295,000		
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	$12,640			$15,000
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds		$34,000		
Total	12640	631000	826962	15000

Year 2 - 2012 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities
Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		$302,000		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			$826,962	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		$295,000		
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	$12,640			$15,000
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds		$34,000		
Total	12640	631000	826962	15000

Year 3 - 2013 Approximate funding amounts and uses

Sources	SILC resource plan	IL services	General CIL operations	Other SPIL activities

Title VII Funds				
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part B		$302,000		
Title VII Funds Chapter 1, Part C			$826,962	
Title VII Funds Chapter 2, OIB (only those provided by the OIB grantee to further a SPIL objective)		$295,000		
Other Federal funds - Sec. 101(a)(18) of the Act (Innovation and Expansion)	$12,640			$15,000
Other Federal funds - other				
Non-Federal funds - State funds		$34,000		
Total	12640	631000	826962	15000

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B(1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

MDRS will utilize Part B funds to provide direct services to individuals with disabilities. LIFE will utilize Part C funds to provide the core services to individuals with disabilities. MDRS will utilize Chapter 2 funds to provide services to eligible individuals with blindness.

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts,

sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

As described in the 1.3A Financial Plan Tables Title VII funds will be utilized by the MDRS(DSU) to provide independent living services to individuals with significant disabilities as indicated in Table 2.1A(1): Independent living services. These services include, but are not limited to the following: information and referral services, mobility training, rehabilitation technology services, environmental accessibility, personal care attendant services, case management services, and limited other IL purchased services.
LIFE (CIL) will utilize Chapter 1, Part C, funds to provide core independent living services and other IL services as indicated in Table 2.1A(1): Independent living services.

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

MDRS will provide funding to support the Resource Plan for the SILC utilizing Innovation and Expansion funds in order to conduct SILC business and necessary SILC functions, including one part-time position.

MDRS will continue to provide support services: meeting rooms, printing, copying, brailling, recording, transcribing, use of office equipment, use of telephones, interpreter services, and technical assistance.

1.3B(4) Provide any additional information about the financial plan, as appropriate.

Supplies, staff, public forums, meetings, travel, postage, training, advertisement, disability awareness events

1.4 Compatibility with Chapter 1 of Title VII and the CIL Work Plans

1.4A Describe how the SPIL objectives are consistent with and further the purpose of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act as stated in section 701 of the Act and 34 CFR 364.2.

The SPIL objectives outline improved quality of life and access to services for individuals with disabilities to increase their independence in the home and community.

1.4B Describe how, in developing the SPIL objectives, the DSU and the SILC considered and incorporated, where

appropriate, the priorities and objectives established by centers for independent living under section 725(c)(4) of the Act.

The Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living, LIFE, is a member of the SILC and is also a member of the committee established to write the SPIL. The CIL's objectives and priorities were included in the SPIL.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities

Describe the steps that will be taken to maximize the cooperation, coordination and working relationships among the SILS program, the SILC, and centers; the DSU, other State agencies represented on the SILC and other councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues; and other public and private entities determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

The description must identify the entities with which the DSU and the SILC will cooperate and coordinate.

a) The SILS program, the SILC, and centers; and

The SILC, L.I.F.E., and MDRS will maintain a clear understanding of the responsibilities of each entity. All programs are represented in the membership of the SILC and participate in SILC activities. The SILC will assist in the development of standardized referral procedures for all service providers in an effort to enhance coordination. The State independent living programs will periodically report to the SILC on progress toward achieving the specified objectives of the SPIL.

MDRS and L.I.F.E. maintain formal and informal cooperative agreements with numerous public and private agencies. Several of these agencies are represented in the SILC membership. The Chairperson of the SILC is a member of the Rehabilitation Advisory Council. Efforts will be made to increase SILC representation on other Councils determined to be appropriate by the SILC.

Services under Chapter 1 are provided after the use of comparable or similar benefits. Services will be coordinated with all available resources to avoid unnecessary duplication. The State IL Programs utilize available technology to identify unnecessary duplications. The SILC supports all efforts to avoid unnecessary duplication of services.

The State utilizes Federal and State funding to coordinate an array of independent living services. MDRS will attempt to

make funds available to private entities to further coordinate efforts and avoid duplication. Other State and Federal funds are coordinated to enhance the availability of personal assistance services. L.I.F.E. utilizes all available resources by coordinating service activities with various agencies. L.I.F.E. participates in various fund raising activities in order to access additional funds.

b) 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 determined to be appropriate by the SILC.
The State and the CIL maintain formal and informal cooperative agreements with many agencies. MDRS coordinates services and programs with the State Department of Mental Health through its MR/DD Waiver for individuals with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities. MDRS also coordinates with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid to provide services through the Division's Elderly and Disabled Waiver and its Assisted Living Waiver. Coordination is also achieved by efforts between MDRS and the DD Council to serve Mississippians with developmental disabilities. The state also participates in the following boards and councils which meet monthly, quarterly or annually: TBI/SCI Advisory Council, Early Childhood Interagency Advisory Committee, Metro Area Home Health Advisory Committee, Interagency coordinating council for Children and Youth, State Workforce Development Council, State Workforce Board, Jackson State University School of Social Work Advisory Council, Early Childhood Interagency Advisory Council, Developmental Disabilities council, State Rehabilitation Council, Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, National Organization of Rehabilitation Partners, Mississippi Brain Injury Association, National Council of State Administrators for the Blind, Regional Research and Training Center for Low Vision and Blindness Advisory Council, T.K. Martin Center for Assistive Technology Services Advisory Council, Preserve Sight Mississippi, MS Lions Eye and Tissue Bank and the Lions of MS Council of Governors, MS Association of Educators and Rehabilitators of the Blind and Visually Impaired (MAER), MS Library Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, Children's Services Task Force, Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (formerly President's Committee on Employment for Disabilities, Mobility Planning Committee, Member of Planning Committee for "Looking to the Future", State Level Case Review Team, State Advisory Committee for Special Education, Transitional Services for Children and Youth Task Force, Project VISSIONS, Where Do We Go From Here Transition Partnership, National Rehabilitation Association, Rehabilitation Association of Mississippi, Consortia of Administrators for Native American Rehabilitation (CANAR). LIFE staff and Board coordinate with and/or participate on the MS Paralysis Association, the Housing

Advisory Council for the Institute for Disability Studies (University Affiliated Program), the Council on Developmental Disabilities, the ADA Advisory Council for the city of Jackson, the Planning Council for the city of Hattiesburg, Southwest MS Rural Health Coalition, and many more.

The State and the CIL post the SPIL, meeting information, and other relevant information on their respective websites

1.6 Coordination of Services

Describe how IL services funded under chapter 1 of title VII of the Act will be coordinated with and complement other services to avoid unnecessary duplication with other Federal, State, and local programs, including the OIB program authorized by chapter 2 of title VII of the Act, that provide IL- or VR-related services.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians has initiated case sharing with the DSU and CIL when an individual's need is greater than the MBCI budget allows.
The DSU and CIL also provide technical assistance to the MBCI IL program staff. The MBCI program staff, in turn, offer to provide technical assistance to DSU and CIL staff in the event that a Choctaw Tribal member is ever an applicant or consumer of their services, offering Choctaw language translation, and cultural interpretation in some cases.

MDRS and LIFE routinely share cases in order to maximize the benefits available to individuals with disabilities.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind

Describe how the DSU seeks to incorporate into, and describe in, the State plan any new methods or approaches for the provision of IL services to older individuals who are blind that are developed under the Older Individuals who are Blind program and that the DSU determines to be effective.

The eight Independent Living Offices are strategically located within the ten Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation

Services (DSU) district areas so that all consumers have access to services regardless of location.

Outreach Activities and Collaborative Efforts with other service providers continue to be the two major components of the Older Blind Program. During the 2009 fiscal year, the Independent Living staff made a total of 344 outreach contacts to optometrists, ophthalmologists, home health agencies, retirement centers, libraries, human service agencies, churches, schools, civic groups, area agencies on aging and other civic entities that have direct contact with this underserved population of Mississippians 55 years of age and older who live in rural areas.

In an effort to improve and expand community services and programs for older individuals who are blind, the Independent Living program continues to partner with Lions of Mississippi, Veterans Administration VIST (Visual Impairment Specialist Team) program, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Area Agencies on Aging, Project START, Home Health Agencies, Community Rehabilitation Programs (The REACH Center, Addie McBryde Center, and Ability Works), Civic groups, and other local entities. Through health fairs, glaucoma screenings, visual acuity testing, and various trainings statewide, thousands of Mississippians who are blind and over the age 55 are receiving much needed educational information regarding blindness and available resources in the area.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 2: Scope, Extent, and Arrangements of Services

2.1 Scope and Extent

2.1A Check the appropriate boxes in the SPIL Instrument table indicating the types of IL services to be provided to meet the objectives identified in section 1.2 of this SPIL, and whether the services will be provided by the CILs or by the DSU (directly and/or through contract or grant).

Table 2.1A: Independent living services	Provided by the DSU (directly)	Provided by the DSU (through contract and/or grant)	Provided by the CILs (Not through DSU contracts/ grants)
Core Independent Living Services - Information and referral	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - IL skills training	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Peer counseling	Yes	No	Yes
Core Independent Living Services - Individual and systems advocacy	Yes	No	Yes
Counseling services, including psychological, psychotherapeutic, and related services	Yes	No	No
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	Yes	No	Yes

adaptive housing services (including appropriate accommodations to and modifications of any space used to serve, or occupied by, individuals with significant disabilities)			
Rehabilitation technology	Yes	No	Yes
Mobility training	Yes	No	No
Services and training for individuals with cognitive and sensory disabilities, including life skills training, and interpreter and reader services	Yes	No	Yes
Personal assistance services, including attendant care and the training of personnel providing such services	Yes	No	No
Surveys, directories and other activities to identify appropriate housing, recreation, accessible transportation and other support services	No	No	Yes
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	Yes	No	Yes
Education and training necessary for living in the community and participating in community activities	Yes	No	Yes
Supported living	No	No	No

Transportation, including referral and assistance for such transportation	Yes	No	Yes
Physical rehabilitation	No	No	No
Therapeutic treatment	No	No	No
Provision of needed prostheses and other appliances and devices	Yes	No	Yes
Individual and group social and recreational services	No	No	Yes
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	Yes	No	Yes
Services for children with significant disabilities	Yes	No	Yes
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	Yes	No	Yes
Appropriate preventive services to decrease the need of individuals with significant disabilities for similar services in the future	Yes	No	Yes

Community awareness programs to enhance the understanding and integration into society of individuals with disabilities	Yes	No	Yes
Other necessary services not inconsistent with the Act	Yes	No	Yes

2.1B Describe any service provision priorities, including types of services or populations, established for meeting the SPIL objectives identified in section 1.2.

MDRS will continue to provide quality services to individuals with disabilities by using Chapter 1, Part B and OIB (Chapter 2) funds.

LIFE will continue to provide independent living services, particularly the Core Services.

2.1C If the State allows service providers to charge consumers for the cost of services or to consider the ability of individual consumers to pay for the cost of IL services, specify the types of IL services for which costs may be charged and for which a financial need test may be applied, and describe how the State will ensure that:

- Any consideration of financial need is applied uniformly so that all individuals who are eligible for IL services are treated equally; and
- Written policies and consumer documentation required by 34 CFR 364.59(d) will be kept by the service provider.

Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

2.2 Arrangements for State-Provided Services

2.2A If the DSU will provide any of the IL services identified in section 2.1A through grants or contractual arrangements with third parties, describe such arrangements.

N/A

2.2B If the State contracts with or awards a grant to a center for the general operation of the center, describe how the State will ensure that the determination of an individual's eligibility for services from that center shall be delegated to the center.

N/A

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network

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.

The Office for Independent Living funded under Title VII, Part C is operated by Living Independence for Everyone (LIFE) of Mississippi, Inc. LIFE has office locations in Tupelo, Greenwood, McComb, Hattiesburg, Biloxi and Jackson

(state office). These offices are strategically located in areas of the state to provide access to as many Mississippians with disabilities as possible, including those un-served and underserved populations, (See Map). LIFE offers the four core independent living services of information and referral, peer support, skills training and individual as well as systems advocacy. LIFE also offers a variety of other independent living services, such as transition from institutionalization back into the community, service coordination and the purchase of services when funding is available through fund raising efforts or third party payments. LIFE will continue to conduct a Consumer Satisfaction Survey each year to seek consumer input and assess areas of need. Information from the Consumer Satisfaction Survey is used to assist the LIFE Board of Trustees and staff to determine improvements needed in service provision and if there needs to be an increase in efforts in the areas of outreach, advocacy, community education and awareness.

3.2 Expansion of Network

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).

LIFE reorganized in 2003 and its network of offices was considered complete, however it has become increasingly more difficult to serve individuals with disabilities in extreme Northeast (Alcorn, Tishomingo Counties) and extreme Northwest (Tunica and DeSoto counties) counties due to the increase in population in these areas and the distances of travel involved. However, with the receipt of ARRA funding, LIFE hired a full time Independent Living Specialist and an Assistant to serve individuals located in these areas. Current staff duties were re-assigned as necessary to ensure quality and appropriate services are being provided. The LIFE Board made the decision not to open offices in these areas due to the time-limited nature of the funds and also so that available funding would not be used for operational expenses such as rent, utilities, etc. but instead would be used for personnel only. Plans for continuing to serve these counties when ARRA funds are expended were addressed with the creation of a Resource Development office within LIFE. It should be noted that there have been no significant increases (above COLA) in Title VII, Part C funds in Mississippi in many years. Recommended funding levels for opening a new CIL is approximately $250,000.

3.3 Section 723 States Only

3.3A If the State follows an order of priorities for allocating funds among centers within a State that is different from what is outlined in 34 CFR 366.22, describe the alternate order of priority that the DSU director and the SILC chair have agreed upon. Indicate N/A if not applicable.

N/A

3.3B Describe how the State policies, practices and procedures governing the awarding of grants to centers and the oversight of these centers are consistent with 34 CFR 366.37 and 366.38.

N/A

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 4: Designated State Unit (DSU)

4.1 Administrative Support Services

4.1A Describe the administrative support services to be provided by the DSU for the SILS (Part B) program and, if the State is a Section 723 State, for the CIL (Part C) program.
Refer to the SPIL Instructions for additional information about administrative support services.

MDRS has Counselors located in offices throughout the state that are available to conduct and provide services to individuals with significant disabilities that are seeking IL services.
MDRS has offices located in the following areas: Jackson, Brookhaven, Natchez, McComb, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Gautier, Laurel, Meridian, Forest, Starkville, Louisville, Newton, Columbus, New Albany, Tupelo, Olive Branch, Oxford, Greenwood, Greenville, Cleveland, Corinth, Amory, Kosciusko, Philadelphia, Batesville, Clarksdale, Yazoo City, Grenada, Eupora, Vicksburg, Pearl, Picayune, Lucedale and Columbia. Consumers may access IL services or information and referral through contact with any of these offices.

4.1B Describe other DSU arrangements for the administration of the IL program, if any.

N/A

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 5: Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)

5.1 Resource plan

5.1A Describe the resource plan prepared by the SILC in conjunction with the DSU for the provision of resources, including staff and personnel, made available under parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII, section 101(a)(18) of the Act, and from other public and private sources that may be necessary to carry out the functions of the SILC identified in section 705(c). The description must address the three years of this SPIL.

- Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

For more information click the icon.

MDRS will provide funding for SILC travel and related expenses incurred in conducting SILC meetings and other necessary SILC functions. MDRS will continue to provide the following support services: meeting rooms, printing and copying, brailling, recording and transcribing, use of office equipment, use of telephones, interpreter services, and technical assistance.
MDRS will provide sufficient funding through the SILC Budget to conduct training and developmental activities for SILC members. This will be done in concert with training resources available through the CILS for joint training efforts.
Staff and other personnel assigned to the SILC through the Resource Plan will not be assigned duties that will result in a conflict of interest. The purpose of this support is to assist the SILC in carrying out its duties under the State Plan for Independent Living.

5.1B Describe how the following SILC resource plan requirements will be addressed.

- The SILC's responsibility for the proper expenditure of funds and use of resources that it receives under the resource plan.

The SILC Treasurer and Chairperson will be provided a quarterly expenditure report from the DSU to be reviewed and approved by the SILC members at their quarterly meetings.

- Non-inclusion of conditions or requirements in the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

No conditions will be placed upon the SILC or the SILC resource plan that may compromise the independence of the SILC.

- Reliance, to the maximum extent possible, on the use of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

Funds will be provided for the SILC resource plan out of resources in existence during the period of implementation of the State plan.

5.2 Establishment and Placement

Describe how the establishment and placement of the SILC ensures its independence with respect to the DSU and all other State agencies. Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The SILC is an autonomous Council with members appointed by the Governor. The members of the SILC elect a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer from among the members. SILC meetings and Public Hearings are held in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws. Meetings are held in a fully accessible location of the members' choice. The SILC Resource Plan is developed by the SILC members with input from the Director of the DSU and supports the objectives and activities outlined in the State Plan for independent living developed by the SILC membership.

5.3 Appointment and Composition

Describe the process used by the State to appoint members to the SILC who meet the composition requirements in section 705(b). Refer to the SPIL Instructions for more information about completing this section.

The SILC is an autonomous council with members appointed by the governor. Nominations for appointment are solicited by the SILC Nominating Committee, presented to the membership, and forwarded to the Governor upon members approval.

The SILC operates according to the proposed and accepted By-Laws of the membership.

The SILC, in its annual report to the Governor, specifies the activities of the State's Independent Living Services program, including the required composition and terms of appointments.

5.4 Staffing

Describe how the following SILC staffing requirements will be met.

- SILC supervision and evaluation, consistent with State law, of its staff and other personnel as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

Support staff hired by the SILC will take assignment from the SILC Chairperson and will be housed in a location agreeable to and selected by the SILC members. Members will receive a quarterly update regarding tasks assigned and completed for the previous quarter. A job description is developed by the officers of the Council and approved by the members.

- Non-assignment of duties to SILC staff and other personnel made available by the DSU, or any other State agency or office, that would create a conflict of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

No assignment of duties will be made to SILC staff or other personnel made available by the DSU or any other State agency or office that will create a conflice of interest while assisting the SILC in carrying out its duties.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State: Mississippi

Agency: Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

Plan for: 2011-2013

Submitted in fiscal year: 2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

Describe how the following service provider requirements will be met:

6.1 Staffing

- Inclusion of personnel who are specialists in the development and provision of IL services and in the development and support of centers.

LIFE's Policy and Procedures were developed by a consumer directed and consumer controlled Board of Trustees and ensures that individuals with disabilities are high priority when hiring for available positions within the organization. Upon hire, LIFE staff receives orientation to independent living history and philosophy, consumer choice and many other aspects of the independent living movement. Staff continues to receive training on various subjects and issues on a quarterly basis. LIFE staff has available to them interpreters for the deaf, as well as interpreters for the Hispanic and Vietnamese languages to enable better communication among the disability population. LIFE provides all information in alternate format, including large print, Braille, disk and reader interpreter, if needed.
MDRS has Counselors that are specialist in the development and provision of IL services located in offices throughout the state. MDRS staff receives on-going training regarding the independent living history and philosophy. MDRS staff also receives training regarding the eligibility criteria for IL services and consumer choice. MDRS offices located in Jackson, Brookhaven, Natchez, McComb, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Laurel, Meridian, Forest, Starkville, Louisville, Columbus, New Albany, Tupelo, Olive Branch, Oxford, Charleston, Greenwood, Greenville, Cleveland,

Corinth, Amory, Kosciusko, Philadelphia, and Columbia. Consumers may access IL services or information and referral through contact with any of these offices.

- Availability, to the maximum extent feasible, of 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 tapes 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 title VII of the Act.

To the maximum extent possible materials in accessible formats are provided in Braille and on audio tape as requested. Interpreter services are also available upon request. All consumers receive information regarding the Client Assistance Program (CAP) and its purpose.

- Establishment and maintenance of a program of staff development for all classes of positions involved in providing IL services and, where appropriate, in administering the CIL program, improving the skills of staff directly responsible for the provision of IL services, including knowledge of and practice in the IL philosophy.

Upon hire, LIFE staff receives orientation to independent living history and philosophy, consumer choice and many other aspects of the independent living movement. Staff continues to receive training on various subjects and issues on a quarterly basis.
MDRS has Counselors that are specialist in the development and provision of IL services located in offices throughout the state. MDRS staff receives on-going training regarding the independent living history and philosophy. MDRS staff also receives training regarding the eligibility criteria for IL services and consumer choice.

- Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities on the same terms and conditions required with respect to the employment of individuals with disabilities under section 503 of the Act.

LIFE's Policy and Procedures were developed by a consumer directed and consumer controlled Board of Trustees and ensures that individuals with disabilities are high priority when hiring for available positions within the organization.
Upon hire, LIFE staff receives orientation to independent living history and philosophy, consumer choice and many

other aspects of the independent living movement. Staff continues to receive training on various subjects and issues on a quarterly basis. LIFE staff has available to them interpreters for the deaf, as well as interpreters for the Hispanic and Vietnamese languages to enable better communication among the disability population. LIFE provides all information in alternate format, including large print, Braille, disk and reader interpreter, if needed.
MDRS has Counselors that are specialist in the development and provision of IL services located in offices throughout the state. MDRS staff receives on-going training regarding the independent living history and philosophy. MDRS staff also receives training regarding the eligibility criteria for IL services and consumer choice. MDRS offices located in Jackson, Brookhaven, Natchez, McComb, Hattiesburg, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Laurel, Meridian, Forest, Starkville, Louisville, Columbus, New Albany, Tupelo, Olive Branch, Oxford, Charleston, Greenwood, Greenville, Cleveland, Corinth, Amory, Kosciusko, Philadelphia, and Columbia. Consumers may access IL services or information and referral through contact with any of these offices.

6.2 Fiscal Control and Fund Accounting

- Adoption of those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through parts B and C of chapter 1 of title VII of the Act, in addition to complying with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements.

LIFE's Board of Trustees and accounting staff, with guidance and input from an accounting firm, have developed financial policies to ensure proper financial accountability. LIFE receives an independent audit annually in accordance with OMB circular A-133 and maintains all records required by the IRS as well as the Ms Secretary of States office. Annual audits of all other grants and contracts are conducted by the grantor and in some cases the Ms Secretary of States office as well.
MDRS has a Office of Financial Management that ensures the proper disbursement of and accounting for funds made available through Part B and Chapter 2 of Title VII of the Act. From this Office, funds are distributed to the Office of Special Disability Programs and Independent Living for the Blind to provide independent living services. The Office of Special Disability Programs and Independent Living for the Blind, through its Accessible Automated Case

Environment(AACE) Budget Module, ensure that funds are disbursed to IL staff for purchased independent living services. Audits are conducted to ensure compliance in the use of these funds.

6.3 Recordkeeping, Access and Reporting

- Maintenance of records that fully disclose and document the information listed in 34 CFR 364.35.

All of LIFE's consumer case records are maintained in accordance with applicable federal laws. Case records are reviewed semi-annually for accuracy and compliance. Financial audits and 990's are available upon request. MDRS (DSU) consumer case records are maintained in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws.

- Submission of annual performance and financial reports, and any other reports that the Secretary determines to be appropriate

All of LIFE's consumer case records are maintained in accordance with applicable federal laws. Case records are reviewed semi-annually for accuracy and compliance. Financial audits and 990's are available upon request. MDRS (DSU) consumer case records are maintained in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws.

- Access to the Commissioner and the Comptroller General, or any of their duly authorized representatives, for the purpose of conducting audits, examinations, and compliance reviews, to the information listed in 34 CFR 364.37.

All of LIFE's consumer case records are maintained in accordance with applicable federal laws. Case records are reviewed semi-annually for accuracy and compliance. Financial audits and 990's are available upon request. MDRS (DSU) consumer case records are maintained in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws.

6.4 Eligibility

- Eligibility of any individual with a significant disability, as defined in 34 CFR 364.4(b), for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs.

LIFE adheres to all requirements for eligibility as defined in 34 CFR 354.4(b) for independent living services.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS(DSU) adheres to the eligibility criteria set forth in 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- Ability of any individual to seek information about IL services under these programs and to request referral to other services and programs for individuals with significant disabilities.

LIFE adheres to all requirements for eligibility as defined in 34 CFR 354.4(b) for independent living services.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS(DSU) adheres to the eligibility criteria set forth in 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- Determination of an individual's eligibility for IL services under the SILS and CIL programs in a manner that meets the requirements of 34 CFR 364.51.

LIFE adheres to all requirements for eligibility as defined in 34 CFR 354.4(b) for independent living services.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS(DSU) adheres to the eligibility criteria set forth in 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- Application of eligibility requirements without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion, or type of significant disability of the individual applying for IL services.

LIFE adheres to all requirements for eligibility as defined in 34 CFR 354.4(b) for independent living services.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS(DSU) adheres to the eligibility criteria set forth in 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

- Non-exclusion from receiving IL services of any individual who is present in the State and who is otherwise eligible for IL services, based on the imposition of any State or local residence requirement.

LIFE adheres to all requirements for eligibility as defined in 34 CFR 354.4(b) for independent living services.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS(DSU) adheres to the eligibility criteria set forth in 34 CFR 364.40; 34 CFR 364.41

6.5 Independent Living Plans

- Provision of IL services in accordance with an IL plan complying with Sec. 364.52 and mutually agreed upon by the individuals with significant disabilities and the appropriate service provider staff unless the individual signs a waiver stating that an IL plan is unnecessary.

LIFE maintains a written independent living plan on all consumers determined eligible for service and requesting a plan.
In administering the independent living program established by Title VII, MDRS (DSU) adheres to the regulations set forth in 34 CRF 364.43(c.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information

- Use of accessible formats to notify individuals seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII about the availability of the CAP program, the purposes of the services provided under the CAP, and how to contact the CAP.

All consumers of MDRS seeking or receiving IL services under chapter 1 of title VII are notified in accessible formats the purpose of the services provided under the Client Assistance Program and how to contact the Client Assistance Program.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information

- Adoption and implementation of policies and procedures meeting the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a), to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.

MDRS adopts and has implemented policies and procedures that meet the requirements of 34 CFR 364.56(a) in order to safeguard the confidentiality of all personal information, including photographs and lists of names.
LIFE Policy and Procedures Manual addresses the confidentiality of consumers seeking assistance.

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 7: Evaluation

Describe the method that will be used to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in meeting the objectives established in Section 1. The description must include the State's evaluation of satisfaction by individuals with significant disabilities who have participated in the program.

Section 7: Evaluation

Goal(s) and the related Objective(s) from Section 1	Method that will be used to evaluate
Improve quality of life and independence of Mississippians with disabilities.	The Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS) Independent Living Rehabilitation Program represented as the Designated State Unit (DSU) and the Centers for Independent Living, LIFE, Inc., will report to the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) on a quarterly basis. Written reports are requested, including statistical information (when available), regarding consumers served during that quarter. At the end of each fiscal year, the DSU and the Centers for Independent Living will provide the SILC with copies of the 704 Report for that year. Progress and issues relative to the achievement of the goals and objectives outlined in the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) will be the primary focus of these reports. The Statewide Independent Living Council Program Evaluation Subcommittee, composed of SILC members, will implement and monitor the evaluation plan. Members of this subcommittee will not be employed by the DSU or CIL programs. Both organizations will have input into the development of the evaluation plan through their SILC membership. The Evaluation Subcommittee will review SPIL objectives quarterly. Consumer Satisfaction Surveys from both the DSU and the CILs will be incorporated into the yearly reports and will be utilized to focus on the needs of the program. The implemented evaluation plan will also contain an assessment of satisfaction of individuals with disabilities who have received DSU and/or CIL services

State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL)

State:	Mississippi
Agency:	Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services
Plan for:	2011-2013
Submitted in fiscal year:	2010

Part II: Narrative

Section 8: State-Imposed Requirements

8 State-Imposed Requirements

Identify any State-imposed requirements contained in the provisions of this SPIL.

N/A

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number of this information collection is 1820-0527. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time to review instructions, search existing data sources, gather the data needed, and complete and review the information collection. If you have any comments concerning the accuracy of the time estimate or suggestions for improving this form, please write to: U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202-4537. If you have any comments or concerns regarding the status of your individual submission of this form, write directly to: Ms. Sue

Rankin-White, U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, PCP-5013, 400 Maryland Ave, SW, Washington, DC 20202-2800.

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