



# FLEXING OUR MUSCLES

Exercising Our Authorities

By

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# What is a SILC Authority?

- **They are “new”:** SILC authorities were added to the Rehab Act in 2014.
- **They are optional:** SILC authorities are discretionary.
- **They are limited:** The Rehab Act provides a list of activities that a SILC can do if they are in the State Plan for Independent Living.

# What is allowed in the law?

- Work with Centers for Independent Living to coordinate services with public and private entities to improve services provided to individuals with disabilities
- Conduct resource development activities to support the activities described in the approved SPIL and/or to support the provision of independent living services by Centers for Independent Living; and
- Perform such other functions, consistent with the purpose of this part and comparable to other functions described in section 705(c) of the Act, as the SILC determines to be appropriate and authorized in the approved SPIL.

***NOTE: SILC activities still must comply with all other applicable federal laws***

# What can this mean in real life?

- Coordination with Centers on improving services for people with disabilities
  - *Working with CILs and Managed Care Organizations to ensure community based services are available*
  - *Working with statewide organizations to improve communication and coordination with CILs during disasters*
  - *Connecting CILs with your Developmental Disabilities Council, Area Agencies on Aging, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, etc.*
  - *Advocating for additional services and better coordination to your state's legislature or agencies*

# What can this mean in real life?

## ■ Resource Development

- *Helping CILs directly secure funds or in-kind resources (contracts, grants, equipment, supplies, volunteers, etc.)*
- *Securing and administering grants to be awarded to CILs as sub-recipients, partners, contractors, etc.*
- *Securing new resources to conduct SPIL activities such as outreach and activities described in the Goals and Objectives*

# What can this mean in real life?

- Board Directed Activities (within the limits of the law and the SPIL)
  - *Conducting outreach activities to under or unserved populations*
  - *Activities to further the SPIL Goals and Objectives*
  - *Activities associated with ensuring your SILC appointments, resources,*
  - *Activities associated with developing, monitoring, and evaluating the SPIL*

# Things to consider...

- What does the law (Rehab Act) say?
  - *Section 705 of the Rehab Act as amended in 2014*
  - *45 CFR § 1329.16*
- What does your state's approved SPIL say?
  - *Check in Section 1, Goals and Objectives, to see how the SILC will support the Goals, Objectives, and Activities of the Network.*
  - *Check in Section 2, Services, to see if the SILC has a defined role and activity in outreach to specific populations and coordination of services.*
  - *Check in Section 5, SILC, to see if your state mentioned how the SILC will perform it's duties and authorities.*
- What does the SILC board say?
  - *Has the SILC provided direction?*

# State Examples

- Texas
- Ohio
- Other States...what are other SILCs doing?



# More Information?

- 45 CFR § 1329.16 - Authorities of the SILC
- State Plan for Independent Living
- ILRU Technical Assistance
- ACL Project Officer

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