**Personal Care Attendants: (FY21-23 SPIL Objective 1.2)**

- **Personal Care Attendant Network:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes Texans with disabilities should have access to a strong network of quality Personal Care Attendants to assist them in gaining and retaining as much independence as they choose.

**Housing: (FY21-23 SPIL Objective 1.5)**

- **Ensuring the Availability of Accessible Housing:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes Texans with disabilities should have access to integrated, affordable, and accessible housing within the community of their choice. Further, the Texas State Independent Living Council believes national, state, and local policies should encourage the development and preservation of accessible housing to ensure people with disabilities have access to community resources that allow them to become and stay independent.

**Transportation: (FY21-23 SPIL Objective 1.4)**

- **Access Beyond Compliance:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes national, state, and local transportation policies and programs should be geared toward ensuring access and services for people with disabilities beyond the requirements outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitation Act.

- **Inclusive Planning:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes local, regional, and statewide transportation and urban planners within the public and private sectors should actively and fully incorporate the needs and perspectives of people with disabilities in all planning activities to ensure full and meaningful access to the community. Cooperation amongst these groups on the issue of accessible transportation will help improve access, use, and sustainability of new and existing transportation services.

- **Accessible Parking Reform:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes safe, appropriate, and accessible parking is an integral part of community integration and transportation access for Texans with disabilities. The Texas State Independent Living Council believes in reform of the current state and local accessible parking policies to encourage increased enforcement, education, and awareness efforts. Texas State Independent Living Council believes that entities that serve individuals with disabilities and seniors (e.g. Centers for Independent Living),
not just entities where individuals with disabilities and seniors reside, should be able to acquire accessible parking placards. Texas State Independent Living Council believes there should be an increased number of large accessible parking spaces for individuals with disabilities and seniors.

**Employment:**

- **Employment Can Help Gain and Maintain Independence:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes employment for people with disabilities, for those that choose this path as a goal, can be an effective tool to help gain, promote, and maintain independence. The Council believes that services that help maintain and gain independence for people with disabilities should be available regardless of employment goal or outcome.

*Long Term Services and Supports: (FY21-23 Objectives 2.2 and 2.3)*

- **Community Services Support Independence:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes that adequate long term services and supports within the community will allow people with disabilities to gain and maintain independence and have full access to community life. The Council believes that ensuring appropriate services and support, and reducing attitudinal barriers within the community, will allow those that wish to transition from nursing facilities or institutions, or those that are risk to entering or re-entering these facilities, to do so by utilizing the community resources of their choice.

- **Preserving Consumer Choice in Relocation Services:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes consumers are best served when funding and program support remain in place to allow Centers for Independent Living to provide holistic relocation and transition services for individuals with disabilities choosing to move from a nursing home or other institution into the community of their choice. Centers for Independent Living have the expertise and community connections to ensure consumers have the supports necessary for a successful transition into the community.

**Youth Transition: (FY21-23 SPIL, Objective 2.1 Youth Transition)**

- **Youth Transition Supports:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes supports should be in place to ensure adequate choices are available for people with disabilities transitioning from a secondary education setting into the setting of their choice including vocational training, college, or living independently in the community of their choice. Youth with disabilities should have access to and
utilize transition services provided by Centers for Independent Living and other providers. In addition, we believe families and providers should engage in permanency planning activities at an early age to ensure long-term services and supports programs are available to youth aging out of programs as they transition to adulthood.

Veterans:

- **Support Veterans with Disabilities:** The Texas State Independent Living Council supports efforts to engage veterans with disabilities to ensure they have the resources that fit the unique needs of this population, and to ensure full access to the community life and resources of their choice.

*Emergency Preparedness: (FY21-23 SPIL Objective 1.3)*

- **Coordinated Emergency Preparedness:** The Texas State Independent Living Council believes state and local emergency officials should include Texans with disabilities and their unique needs in their emergency planning process and response.

Service Animals:

- **Ensuring Rights and Access for Service Animals:** As a statewide organization that advocates for over three million Texans with disabilities to have access to quality independent living services, the Texas State Independent Living Council understands the importance of service animals for individuals to gain and retain independence in their communities. As such, we support the effort to ensure access for individuals with disabilities to use service animals within the community and to travel and likewise decrease instances of fraud or incidents caused by improperly trained animals. In order to ensure that individuals with disabilities do not lose any rights or access, there must be a balance between clarifying and tightening existing regulations while not making restrictions a hardship for people with disabilities.