

Putting the Pieces Together



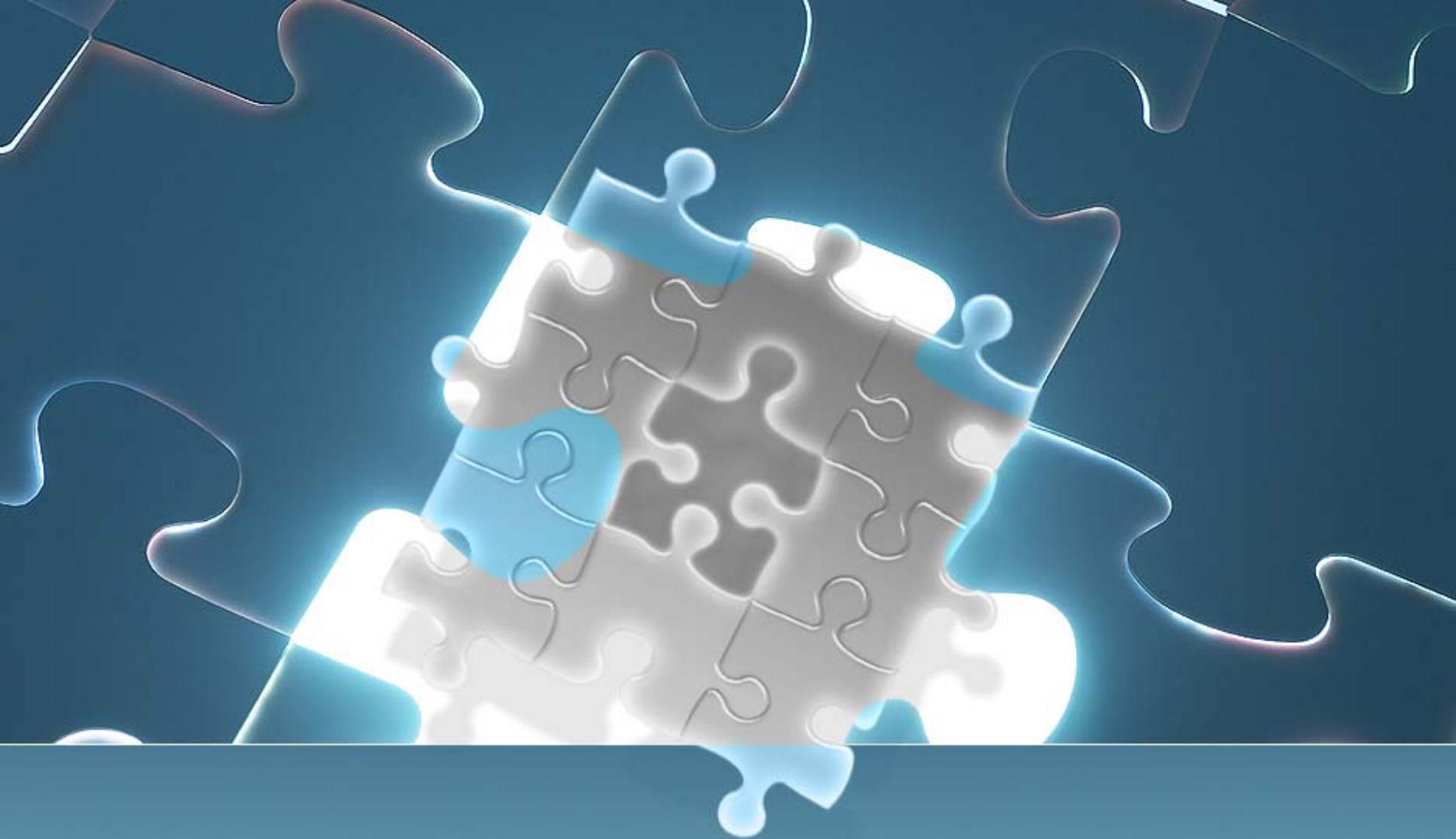
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Session Objectives

- How did we get here?
- How do we connect?
- How do the connections impact our day-to-day activities?



Some History



1970

- **The Physically Disabled Students Program (PDSP) is founded by Ed Roberts and others at UC Berkeley**
 - **community living**
 - **political advocacy**
 - **personal assistance services**
 - **becomes the nucleus for the first Center for Independent Living, founded two years later**



1972

- The first CLIL is founded in Berkeley, California
- Sparks the worldwide independent living movement



1974

- **The Boston Center for Independent Living is founded**



1975

- Ed Roberts becomes the Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation
- California funds nine independent living centers across the state
- The CILs demonstrate that independent living can be replicated
- Results in the founding of hundreds of CILs all over the world



1978

- **Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1978 establishes the first federal funding for independent living**



1998

- **Statewide Independent Living Councils (SILCs) are mandated as part of the Rehabilitation Act**
- **To receive federal funds, the state must establish a SILC**



SILC Membership

- **Consumer-controlled**
- **Statewide representation**
- **Diverse (race, ethnicity, age, disability, gender, etc.)**
- **Appointed by the Governor**
- **Representative of different organizations/roles**



SILC Responsibilities

- **Jointly develop with the DSU and sign the State Plan for Independent Living**
- **Monitor, review, and evaluate the implementation of the State plan**



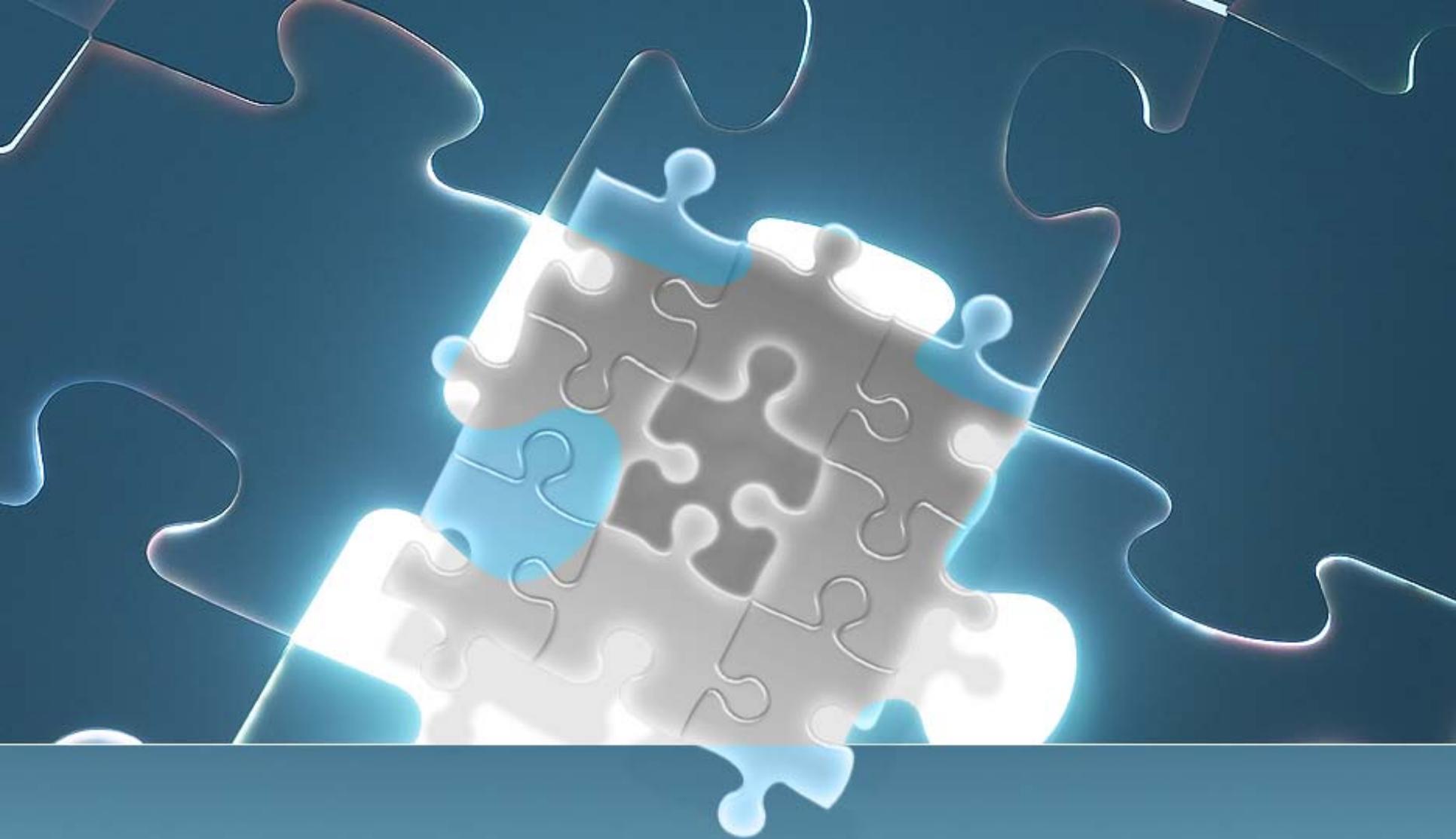
SILC Responsibilities

- **Coordinate activities with the State Rehabilitation Council and councils that address the needs of specific disability populations and issues under other Federal law**



SILC Responsibilities

- Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings are open to the public and sufficient advance notice is provided
- Submit reports to RSA



The Big Picture

Follow The Money!!!

Congress

President

US Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

General VR and Part B funds
Pass to VR

Part C Funds Pass
to the CILs

Florida Legislature Gives
Florida Department of Education
Spending Authority

Part B Funds, General Revenue,
and Social Security Reimbursement
Funds Pass to the CILs

Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation

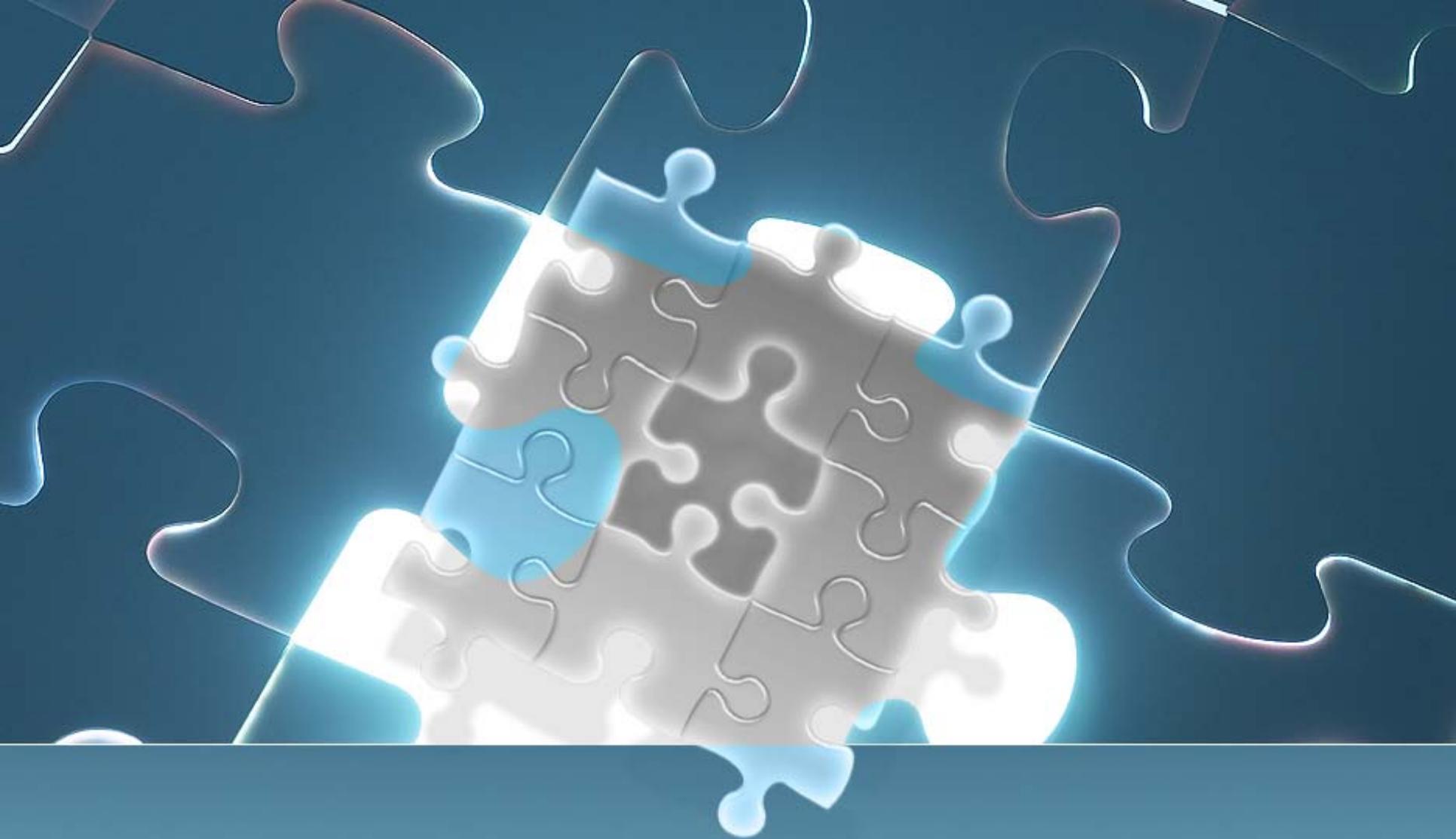
VR Provides FILC
with General VR Funds





State Plan for Independent Living

- The SPIL contains assurances that VR must sign in order for the money to come to Florida
- VR is responsible for making sure that Florida complies with the assurances
- The CILs put the assurances into practice



Assurances



Assurances

- Eligibility
- Independent Living Services
- Staffing Requirements
- Fiscal Control
- Confidentiality

VR delegates responsibility to follow the assurances to the CILs



Assurances: Eligibility

- **An individual with a significant disability**
- **Any individual may seek I&R services**
- **The determination of an individual's eligibility for independent living services must comply with federal law**



Assurances: Eligibility

- Without regard to age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability
- No state or local residence requirements



Assurances: IL Services

- **Services provided in accordance with an independent living plan**
 - **mutually agreed upon by staff member and the individual**
 - **individuals can sign waivers**



Assurances: IL Services

- Accessible formats used to notify individuals seeking or receiving independent living services about CAP
- All applicable State licensure or certification requirements



Assurances: Staffing Requirements

- Specialists in the provision of independent living services
- Able to communicate:
 - using alternative modes of communication
 - in the native languages of individuals with significant disabilities



Assurances: Staffing Requirements

- **Maintain a staff development program for positions involved in providing independent living services and administering the CIL program**



Assurances: Staffing Requirements

- Emphasizes improving the skills of staff, including knowledge of and practice in the independent living philosophy
- Affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with significant disabilities



Assurances: Fiscal Control

- **Comply with applicable EDGAR fiscal and accounting requirements**
- **Adopt those fiscal control and fund accounting procedures as may be necessary to ensure the proper disbursement of and accounting for those funds**



Assurances: Records

- **Maintain records that fully disclose and document:**
 - the amount and disposition of financial assistance
 - the total cost of the project
 - the amount of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources



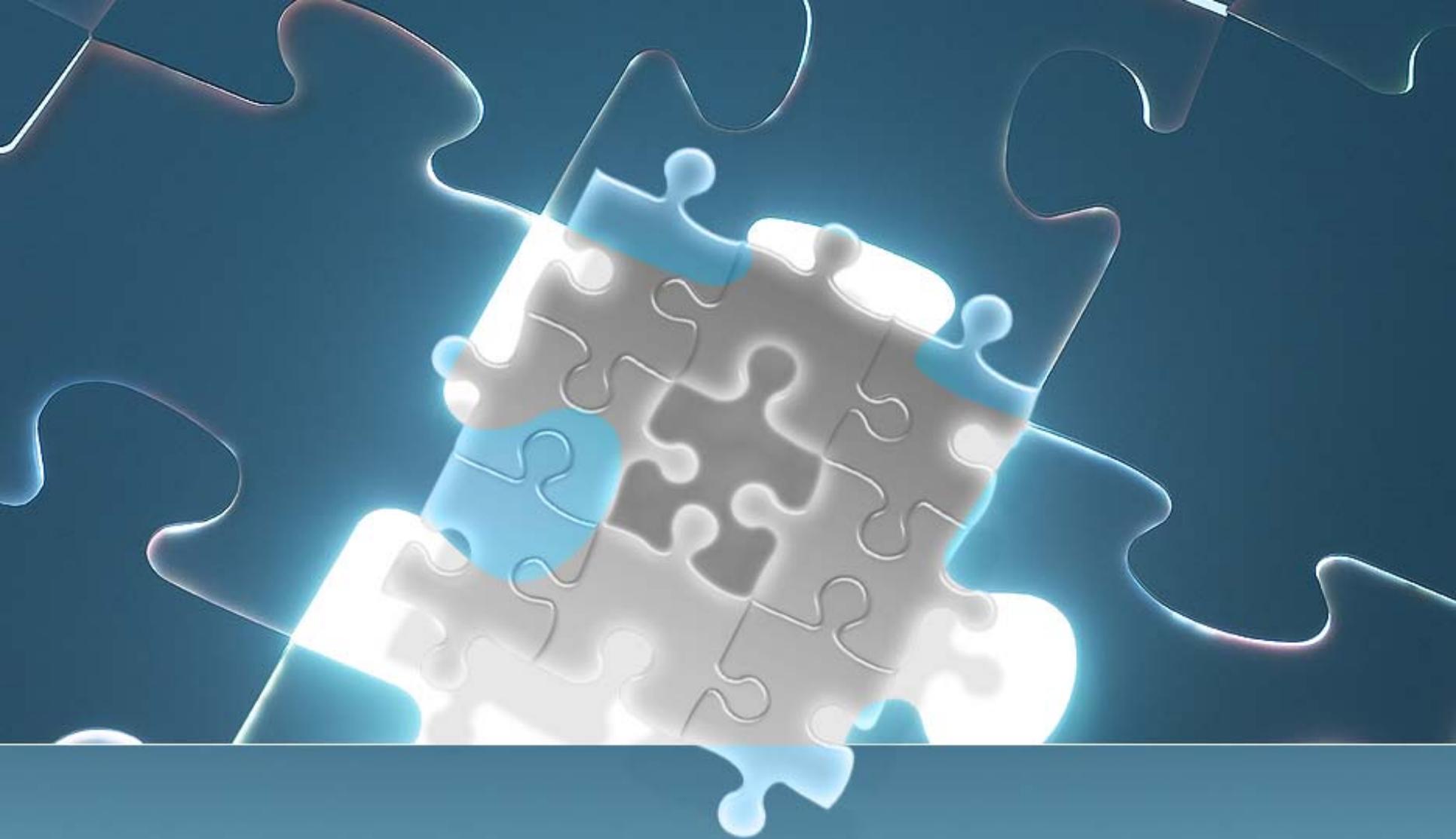
Assurances: Records

- **Compliance with the federal law and regulations**
- **Other information that the RSA Commissioner determines to be appropriate to facilitate an effective audit**



Assurances: Confidentiality

- 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 federal requirements



Conclusions



What does it all mean?

- **RSA expects VR to comply with the assurances**
- **VR needs the CILs to comply with the assurances on its behalf**



How do I learn more?

- Links to regulations, the State Plan for Independent Living, and other resources: www.rehabworks.org/IL
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