

### Agency Purpose

The Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD) is an independent agency with the broad charge of advising the governor, state legislature, state agencies, and the public about legislation, programs, and policies that impact the lives of persons who have a disability (M.S. 256.482). The MSCOD links people with disabilities to those who are statutorily responsible for planning and delivering services to them, and supplements the efforts of disability advocacy groups in the private sector.

**MSCOD Mission:** The MSCOD advises, provides technical assistance, collaborates, and advocates to expand opportunities, improve the quality of life and empower persons with disabilities.

The council plays a critical role for Minnesotans with disabilities because historically, people with disabilities have been and continue to be underrepresented in the legislature and have had limited access to the office of the governor and public policy makers. MSCOD provides leadership in the disability community while maintaining an excellent working relationship with the governor, members of both houses of the legislature, and other state agencies.

Overall, the populations served by the council are disproportionately impoverished and have experienced a multitude of complex and inter-related social and economic problems. These conditions are both caused and exacerbated by lack of equal access and opportunity.

### Core Functions

Within our broad charge, the council has focused its purpose by identifying five strategies that span all MSCOD activities:

1. Be a resource for people with disabilities.
2. Engage in a range of outreach activities to serve stakeholders.
3. Partner and build relationships to effectively serve the state and the disability community.
4. Practice sound fiscal and administrative processes.
5. Provide research and data for use in advising its' customers.

MSCOD is known for its ability to answer tough questions as well as its strong leadership in forging partnerships to serve the disability community. Common questions range from how to apply for a disability-parking certificate to very technical questions about the building code, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and emergency preparedness. The council meets its charge by offering wide-ranging services to its customers, including:

- ◆ providing consultation and advisory services on disability related policy;
- ◆ supplying advice and information/referral services on all disability-related services and programs;
- ◆ providing guidance, training, and technical assistance on laws, regulations, and codes;
- ◆ researching, formulating, and developing plans, programs, and policies serving the needs of people with disabilities;
- ◆ delivering training on a myriad of disability related topics to a wide range of audiences; and
- ◆ forging partnerships to effectively address emerging trends in the disabled community.

### Operations

The MSCOD serves a varied customer base. People with disabilities and their families are the primary clients of the council's services. MSCOD also provides services to public officials, state agency personnel, local governments, employers, community organizations, disability related organizations and institutions,

### At A Glance

- ◆ There are approximately **309,693** people with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 64 in Minnesota. **50%** of Minnesotans with disabilities are employed compared to **80%** of Minnesotans with no disability.
- ◆ **2,176** Minnesotans with disabilities are institutionalized in nursing homes. MSCOD is leading the charge to relocate people in community settings as part of the Options Too program.
- ◆ The average individual earnings for a person with a disability are **\$14,600** or less than half what a person without a disability averages.
- ◆ **17%** of Minnesotans with disabilities are at or below the federal poverty level compared to **7%** of Minnesotans without disability.

*\*Figures taken from the 2004 American Community Survey.*

architects, builders, neighborhood groups, and the broader public.

Advisory services are provided both formally and informally to public officials and state agency personnel. Disability related information, such as MSCOD's publications, frequently asked questions and answers (FAQs), fact sheets, and links are also available on our web site. MSCOD provides informational services via e-mail and distribution lists. MSCOD sponsors several public forums each year. Four town hall meetings (broadcast statewide via video conferencing) and one legislative forum, annually, reach approximately 500 people. The agency also offers customized training on disability issues to a wide array of audiences on topics such as access, disability awareness, emergency management and preparedness, employment, and the ADA. MSCOD does approximately 45 of these trainings each year, and provides technical assistance for those topics as well.

### Key Measures

Demand for disability-related technical assistance has increased for the past three years. Over that period, the council received 25,448 contacts via telephone, e-mail, and fax – 6,523 in FY 2004, 8,776 in FY 2005, and 10,150 in FY 2006 – an average yearly increase of 25%.

To measure success and improve service quality, MSCOD conducts annual consumer satisfaction surveys; 97% of respondents in our most-recent survey rated our service as 'excellent' or 'very good'. The agency also evaluates all council events and seeks comments on the usefulness of our key publications, information, and referral services provided.

Success is also measured by state agencies using our services. In FY 2005-06, we had a 7% increase over the previous fiscal year of state agencies utilizing MSCOD for technical assistance. We have also increased our services to local governments and enhanced our relationships with the governor's office and state legislators to expand disability policy resources.

We are a valued resource for state agencies on issues such as: emergency preparedness and disaster planning for persons with disabilities, ADA training, disability parking, building code revisions, and other matters of public policy.

### Budget

The council's FY 2006-07 budget totals \$1 million from the state's General Fund, but will sunset at the end of the current biennium. Council staff includes 5.6 fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions. There are 21 council members appointed by the governor, with at least one member from each economic development region of the state. MSCOD also financially partners with state agencies and private enterprise to serve citizens with disabilities.

### Contact

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Further information about the MSCOD, including strategic plan, fact sheets, frequently asked questions (FAQs), publications, links and other information, is available at the council's web site at: <http://www.disability.state.mn.us>

To see the council strategic plan go to  
<http://www.disability.state.mn.us/pubs/strategicplan/stratplan.html>

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*Dollars in Thousands*

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<b><u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u></b>					
<b>General</b>					
Current Appropriation	500	500	500	500	1,000
<b>Forecast Base</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Change		0	(500)	(500)	(1,000)
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					-100%
 <b><u>Expenditures by Fund</u></b>					
<b>Direct Appropriations</b>					
General	429	589	0	0	0
<b>Statutory Appropriations</b>					
Misc Special Revenue	136	153	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Category</u></b>					
Total Compensation	349	449	0	0	0
Other Operating Expenses	216	293	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b><u>Expenditures by Program</u></b>					
Cncl On Disability	565	742	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
 <b>Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	 <b>6.1</b>	 <b>6.0</b>	 <b>0.0</b>	 <b>0.0</b>	

DISABILITY COUNCIL

Agency Revenue Summary

*Dollars in Thousands*

	Actual FY2006	Budgeted FY2007	Current Law		Biennium 2008-09
			FY2008	FY2009	
<b><i>Non Dedicated Revenue:</i></b>					
<b>Total Non-Dedicated Receipts</b>	0	0	0	0	0
<b><i>Dedicated Receipts:</i></b>					
<b>Grants:</b>					
Misc Special Revenue	75	0	0	0	0
<b>Other Revenues:</b>					
Misc Special Revenue	120	90	0	0	0
<b>Total Dedicated Receipts</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Agency Total Revenue</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>