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Transfers to Centers for Independent Living
Report to the Legislature
Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135
Section 2, Subd 3 (f)

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Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135, Section 2, Subd 3 (f) requires that the Commissioner report on transfers to Centers For Independent Living (CIL) specified in the section and any other transfer to Centers for Independent Living made by the department by March 15, 2

Three separate transfers were specified in the section. The legislative language:

(1) transfer \$115,000 of federal independent living Part B rehabilitation services funds to the Minnesota Centers for Independent Living each year contingent upon the availability of federal funds under Title VII, Part B, of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended under United States Code, title 29, section 711(c), and approved by the Statewide Independent Living Council;

(2) replace federal Part B funds in the State Independent Living Council budget transferred under clause (1) with \$115,000 of Social Security Administration program income funds each year; and

(3) provide an additional \$185,000 each year from the Social Security Administration program income to the Minnesota Centers for Independent Living to be allocated equally among the eight centers.

Funds were encumbered and contracts let for these three provisions effective October 1, 2012 through September 30th, 2013.

In addition, the language specifies a report on any other transfer being made to Centers for Independent Living.

In September of 2012, the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) determined to continue funding for local VRS-Independent Living (IL) collaborations for a one year period through September 30, 2013 using an approach that emphasized the advantages of co-location and that focused Independent Living service delivery exclusively on Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) consumers.

VRS believes that providing access to IL services significantly enhances a VR consumer's ability to achieve an employment outcome. Further, the co-location of CIL staff at workforce centers or VRS offices or, alternately, the benefits of co-location through CIL staff time dedicated to VRS-related services, has strengthened the effectiveness of this partnership.

In FFY 2013, 1,510 VRS consumers were served through the collaboration, with 9,122 service hours being provided. Employment outcomes have and continue to improve as a result of this collaboration. The employment rate for participants in 2013 was 66.5%. For those VRS consumers who did not receive services under the collaboration, the employment rate was 58.5%.

Because the Social Security Administration (SSA) Program Income available to DEED/VRS has declined since 2008 and continues to be variable, funding for these grants will be for a one year period. If resources are available to continue the collaboration, additional grants for local collaborations may be made available under the authority of the original RFP.

If you have further questions please contact Brad Westerlund at 651 259-7351 or brad.westerlund@state.mn.us