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Department of Employment and Economic Development

TRANSFERS TO CENTERS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Report to the Legislature
as required byMinnesota 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, 2012.

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.

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. From July 1st, 2011 to June 30th, 2012, 1,246 consumers received both VR and IL services through the collaboration. Of that number, 370exited the VR system with an employment rate of 69.7%.

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 ofthe original RFP.

If you have further questions please contact John Sherman at 651 259-7349 or john.sherman@state.mn.us