

Memo

To: Minnesota Individual Placement and Support Grantees and Advocates
From: Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Re: Legislative Advocacy for IPS
Date: March 6, 2023

IPS Funding Legislation 2023

- *Governor's Budget Bill:* SF/HF numbers not yet available
- *Mental Health Legislative Network Workforce Bill:* SF 1779 (Mohamed), HF 1697 (Sencer-Mura)
- *Details:* More information on the specifics of the funding increase can be found in the Governor's budget recommendation change page or the IPS fact sheet created by DEED.
- *If something is a Governor's budget recommendation, does that mean it will be funded?* No – the Governor simply provides budget recommendations to the legislature, but cannot pass legislation as Governor. The legislature must introduce bills with these initiatives, hear the bills in committees, and pass them in final budget bills. It is critical interested stakeholders contact legislators to hear the bills, include them in larger “omnibus” budget bills, and pass the budgets with these items.

What Should I Ask/Share

- Ask legislators to support increased funding to the Individual Placement and Support program.
- *For legislators:*
 - Share why IPS is important to you, to your organization, to the individuals you serve, and to your communities.
 - Share how these programs impact the lives of Minnesotans.
 - Share why funding is so critical and the impact of cuts to your grants.
 - Be sure legislators understand that without the funding increase, current projects will be cut by 27% leading to an estimated 350 individuals losing access to services.
 - Share that in addition to preserving services for 350 individuals served by one-time funds, this increase would allow the program to serve an additional 325 Minnesotans a year.
- *For committee chairs:* ask that the bills funding this program receive hearings.
- *For committee chairs and legislative leadership:* ask that budget targets for committees be set to accommodate this request.

Who should I contact?

Individuals who are interested in voicing support for the Governor's budget proposals are encouraged to contact:

- Your own local legislators, the legislators that represent where your organization is located. [Find out who represents you.](#)
- Members of the House committee for [Workforce Development Finance and Policy](#)
- Chair of the House committee for Workforce Development Finance and Policy, [Representative Jay Xiong](#)

- Members of the Senate committee for [Jobs and Economic Development](#)
- Chair of the Senate committee for Jobs and Economic Development, [Senator Bobby Joe Champion](#)
- Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, [Representative Liz Olson](#)
- Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, [Senator John Marty](#)
- Senate Majority Leader, [Senator Kari Dziedzic](#)
- Speaker of the House, [Representative Melissa Hortman](#)

Legislature 101

- **Main Senate Website:** <https://www.senate.mn/>
- **Main House Website:** <https://www.house.mn.gov/>
- **What is a “biennium?”** The Minnesota state budget operates on a two-year cycle, or biennium, covering two fiscal years. The 1st year of the biennium is the year the state budget for the next 2 fiscal years is set. The 2nd year of the biennium is generally focused on bonding, policy, and supplemental budgeting.
- **Bill Tracking:** You can look up bill language and status by going to the main Senate and House websites. To manage a list of bills online, you can use a tool called [“MyBills”](#) on the Legislature’s website.
- **Legislative Schedules:** To view upcoming legislative committee hearings and floor schedules, go to the [Combined Legislative Meeting Calendar](#). This view shows you both House and Senate upcoming meetings. There are options to receive email updates for committee and floor schedules.
- **View Committee Hearings and Floor Sessions:** If you are interested in watching a hearing, some hearings will be viewable on-line and the easiest way to find the link is to go here <https://www.leg.mn.gov/> and click on the day you’d like to watch a hearing. Then you will be able to click on the committee and the links to the hearing broadcast.
- **Past Hearings and Floor Sessions:** committee hearings and floor sessions are always recorded with audio and sometimes with video. They are archived and can be accessed by going to the committee schedule.