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**We enhance quality of life through individualized support,
training, and employment.**

Date: March 20th, 2023

To: House Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee

From: Sheila Ward, WCI Director of EE and Placement Services
Renee Nolting, WCI Executive Director

RE: IPS Funding -*support SF 1779*

WCI has been working collaboratively with the State of MN and Woodland Centers to provide job placement services and supports to persons with mental illness that have barriers to employment. As you can see by the attached report, the program is more successful than traditional job placement and support services. The program yields both a higher rate of employment and sustained employment at a low cost to the state all while positively changing individual lives. The IPS Program doesn't require anyone to be "job ready." The program meets people where they are at; and, in return, there is more success and self-correction to health and well-being when work is involved in recovery.

- *without the funding increase, current projects will be cut by 27% leading to an estimated 350 individuals losing access to services.*

Please advocate to increase our funding for the IPS Programs so we can continue to provide these life changing services to individuals with mental illness.

Thank you for your support!

Attachment

Sheila Ward & Renee Nolting