

Activity Description

The Minnesota State Council on Disability (MSCOD) is an independent state agency with the broad charge of advising the governor, state legislature, state agencies, and the families of and citizens with disabilities about legislation, programs, and policies that impact the lives of Minnesotans that have a disability (M.S. 256.482).

Population Served

MSCOD serves individuals with disabilities in Minnesota, either directly by providing support and information to those contacting the agency, or indirectly by assisting and advising policymakers to ensure the needs of people with disabilities are adequately considered and addressed. MSCOD also supplements the efforts of disability-related initiatives in the private and nonprofit sectors.

Services Provided

MSCOD coordinates activities of state agencies and various stakeholder groups to improve disability-related public policy. MSCOD monitors compliance with existing federal and state disability-related statutes and regulations. Examples of this include:

- ◆ Providing information and technical assistance on disability laws and regulations to the governor, federal and state legislators, state agency officials, businesses, non-profit organizations, and the general public.
- ◆ Educating the public about disability issues by publishing and disseminating disability-related information and training curricula to employers, and teachers.
- ◆ Assisting in the implementation of new programs and initiatives to ensure the needs of individuals with disabilities are met. The agency continues to work with the Departments of Public Safety, Health, and Human Services to implement emergency preparedness plans adequate serve individuals with disabilities.
- ◆ Serving as a training resource for employers, in both the private and public sectors, on issues impacting individuals with disabilities. This includes working with organizations to correct violations of federal and state disability laws.
- ◆ Completing research studies and state wide work plans as directed by policymakers.

Historical Perspective

Since 1973, MSCOD has provided technical assistance and public policy direction to the governor, legislature, state agencies and the general public. The governor can appoint up to 21 members to MSCOD. The Council currently consists of 15 members representing several economic regions throughout the state. In 2008, the legislature removed the MSCOD's sunset provision.

Key Goals

- ◆ Reduce the unemployment rate of people with disabilities in Minnesota. The agency seeks to maximize the number of disabled individuals employed as it is a key indicator of the extent they participate in society. This goal is from Minnesota Milestones, see: (<http://server.admin.state.mn.us/mm/indicator.html?Id=32&G=33&CI=32>)
- ◆ All people will be welcomed, respected and able to participate fully in Minnesota's communities and economy. To meet this goal, the agency is working to improve transportation options for people with disabilities throughout the state. As of 2008, seven Minnesota counties have no public transportation service for people with disabilities, limiting their ability to fully participate in community life. This goal is from Minnesota Milestones, see: (<http://server.admin.state.mn.us/mm/indicator.html?Id=33&G=33&CI=33>)

At a Glance

- ◆ 342,254 Minnesotans between the ages of 16 and 64 have a disability
- ◆ 47% of Minnesotans with disabilities are employed compared to 81% of Minnesotans with no disability
- ◆ On average, individuals with disabilities earn less than one half of those without a disability.
- ◆ 20% of Minnesotans with disabilities are at or below the poverty level compared to 8% of those without disabilities
- ◆ Baby boomers are aging, acquiring age-related disabilities
- ◆ The number of veterans with service-related disabilities is likely to increase as they return from Iraq and Afghanistan

**Figures taken from the 2006 American Community Survey*

Key Measures

- ◆ Request for technical assistance: The number of requests the agency receives has increased since FY 2005. The demand for the agency’s unique expertise and resources remains significant. The increase from FY 2007 to FY 2008 was due new requests associated with work on the Pathways to Employment Grant, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services, and an upgrade in the agency’s information analysis reporting software late in 2007.

Fiscal Year	Requests Received
2005	8,776
2006	10,150
2007	12,166
2008	24,384

- ◆ Customer satisfaction: MSCOD conducts annual surveys of customers to gauge their reaction to the services provided. In the most recent survey, 94% of respondents rated the agency’s service as satisfactory or above. Results from the previous year’s survey were similar, with 97% rating agency services as “excellent” or “very good.” The number of requests from other state agencies also continues to rise.

Activity Funding

MSCOD operations are supported primary by general fund appropriations. The agency also generates revenue by participating in financial partnerships with other state agencies and community organizations. An example of this is an interagency agreement with the Department of Human Services on the federal Pathways to Employment Grant. This grant is a partnership effort between multiple agencies to create a coordinated statewide strategy to facilitate the competitive employment of Minnesotans with disabilities. The agency will continue to seek partnerships with other organizations to maximize resources, provide expertise, and promote efficiency.

Contact

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Agency Website: *www.disability.state.mn.us*. This includes our strategic plan, annual legislative reports, fact sheets, frequently asked questions, publications, and other information.

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2010-11
	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
General					
Current Appropriation	812	524	524	524	1,048
Forecast Base	812	524	524	524	1,048
Change		0	0	0	0
% Biennial Change from 2008-09					-21.6%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	537	598	524	524	1,048
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	203	173	211	106	317
Statutory Appropriations					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	8	40	0	0	0
Total	748	811	735	630	1,365
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	382	453	439	428	867
Other Operating Expenses	366	358	296	202	498
Total	748	811	735	630	1,365
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Cncl On Disability	748	811	735	630	1,365
Total	748	811	735	630	1,365
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	7.2	7.9	7.4	7.0	

DISABILITY COUNCIL

Agency Revenue Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2008	Budgeted FY2009	Current Law		Biennium 2010-11
			FY2010	FY2011	
<i>Non Dedicated Revenue:</i>					
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Dedicated Receipts:</i>					
Other Revenues:					
Miscellaneous Special Revenue	219	149	211	106	317
Total Dedicated Receipts	219	149	211	106	317
Agency Total Revenue	219	149	211	106	317