

09-0519

Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135, Section 2, Subd 3 (f) requires that the Commissioner report on transfers to Centers For Independent Living specified in the section and any other transfer to Centers for Independent Living made by the department by March 15, 2009.

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

- (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, 2008 for the second year of funding.

In addition, the language specifies a report on any other transfer being made to Centers for Independent Living. The department granted a total of \$1,350,152 in eight contracts with centers to provide independent living services to clients of local Work Force Centers and Vocational Rehabilitation teams. The first year contracts were given out for December 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008. The purpose of these grants is to leverage the services available through Minnesota's Centers for Independent Living to ensure VR customers have the requisite independent living skills necessary to be successful in competitive employment.

The contracts went to all eight CILs providing service in Minnesota. The services being provided by the Centers were developed collaboratively with the vocational rehabilitation offices in the Work Force Centers in the service area of the Center. The results of the first year's contracts are now being evaluated for their effect on increasing the number of successful employment outcomes for individuals receiving services from vocational rehabilitation.

The Department expects to make these funds available each year for three years depending on the availability of Social Security reimbursement income available for program use. Contracts for the second year of funding in a total amount of \$1,349,552 were given out continuing all eight collaborative projects. The contracts were for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

The projects will continue to be assessed and evaluated for effectiveness in the second year. This assessment will be used to develop permanent funding if the projects prove successful.

If you have further questions please feel free to contact me at 651 259-7345 or [Kim.Peck@state.mn.us](mailto:Kim.Peck@state.mn.us).

Sincerely yours,

Kimberley Peck  
Director, Rehabilitation Services  
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

**This document is made available electronically by the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library as part of an ongoing digital archiving project. <http://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/lrl.asp>**