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# Transfers to Centers For Independent Living Report to the Legislature Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135, Section 2, Subd 3 (f)

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## Department of Employment and Economic Development

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Minnesota Session Law Chapter 135, Section 2, Subd 3 (f) requires that the Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) report on transfers to Centers For Independent Living (CILs) specified in the section and any other transfer to CILs made by DEED by March 15, 2015.

Three separate transfers were specified in the legislation:

- (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 in order to execute the contracts for these three provisions, which went into effect October 1, 2014.

Additionally, in September 2014, DEED's Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) approved funding for local VRS-Independent Living collaborations for a one-year period through September 30, 2015. All collaborations maintained the approach of co-location with a WorkForce Center or VRS office and focused on Independent Living service delivery exclusively to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) consumers.

VRS believes that providing access to Independent Living 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, CIL staff time dedicated to VRS-related services, has strengthened the effectiveness of this partnership.

From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 1,252 VRS consumers were served through the collaboration, with 8,130 service hours provided. Participants receiving services continue to experience higher employment rates than those who do not receive services.. The employment rate for participants in 2014 was 66 percent. For those VRS consumers who did not receive services under the collaboration, the employment rate was 61.4 percent.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) Program Income available to DEED is variable, which means funding for these grants are 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 of the original RFP.

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