

Rehabilitation Pays

Vocational rehabilitation is a successful, time-tested human service program serving the needs of persons with disabilities. It also is a profitable investment of tax dollars.

Rehabilitation leads to employment for DVR's clients who usually have little or no earnings when they enter the program. Most must depend on benefits from various public assistance programs.

Employment as a result of DVR's services reduces or eliminates that dependency — and the vocationally rehabilitated client becomes a taxpayer.

In less than three years, the total annual costs of the vocational rehabilitation program are fully repaid as a result of the reduction of dollars spent on public assistance and the increased payment of taxes by rehabilitated clients.

A comprehensive analysis of 4,934 persons rehabilitated by DVR in 1981 showed that the annual rate of return on the taxpayer's investment in the program was 34.8 percent. The analysis was based on conservative estimates of the rehabilitants' potential incomes.

The analysis considered unemployment, mortality, retirement and dollar depreciation. It excluded the salary increases or bonuses that rehabilitated clients could expect to receive.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services for DVR Clients

Basic rehabilitation services to clients, the core of the vocational rehabilitation program, include counseling, guidance, training and placement.

Medical, psychological and vocational evaluations are provided to determine the extent of the clients' handicaps, as well as their physical, mental and vocational abilities and limitations.

Clients are served by approximately 150 rehabilitation counselors in the 47 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) field offices in Minnesota. Most counselors have a master's degree in rehabilitation, education, psychology or other closely related fields.

Educational institutions, social agencies, physicians, attorneys and employers are the major referral sources. DVR counselors determine each applicant's eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services.

To be eligible, an applicant must have a medically documented disability which significantly interferes with an ability to obtain or continue employment. In addition, there must be a reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services eventually will lead to employment.

More than 50 percent of DVR's clients are severely handicapped and, therefore, given priority for services in accordance with a requirement of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Once accepted for services, each client works with a counselor to develop an individualized written plan which considers the client's aptitudes, abilities and interests.

The plan outlines the process of rehabilitation and details services and other integral components that will contribute toward achievement of the employment goal.

DVR's Office of Client Services has formed effective partnerships with the Minnesota Departments of Education, Public Welfare and Corrections to develop special vocational plans for clients who are served by these agencies.

In addition, DVR counselors work with other job training or placement programs such as the AFL-CIO Human Resources Development Institute and Projects With Industry to fully use employment resources.

The following services also are available through DVR to the extent needed by the client:

- Artificial appliances (braces, hearing aids, limbs, glasses and other devices) to increase work ability;
- College, vocational technical, tutorial or correspondence school training;
- Transportation and income maintenance during treatment or training;
- Tools, equipment and licenses, if needed, to place the disabled person in business;
- Placement in a suitable job and follow-up to make sure the client is safely and satisfactorily employed.

Statistics

State Fiscal Year

July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983

Rehabilitation Services (State/Federal Funding)

Salaries and Expenses		11,006,850
Case Services for Clients		6,426,530
Diagnostic Services	245,450	
Vocational/Work Evaluation	910,375	
Physical/Mental Restoration	120,330	
Training Services	2,763,425	
Personal/Work Adjustment	1,815,650	
Support Services	571,300	
Grant Aid to		315,315
Rehabilitation Facilities	0	
Local School Districts	238,435	
Other	73,880	

TOTAL

17,745,695

Regional Service Centers for Hearing Impaired Persons (State/Federal Funding)

Salaries and Expenses	433,070	
Grant Aid	71,060	

TOTAL

504,130

Long-term Sheltered Employment/Work Activity (State Funding)

Salaries and Expenses	162,920	
Direct Support to	6,655,705	
Long-Term Sheltered Employment		
and Work Activity Programs		

TOTAL

6,818,625

Independent Living Services (State/Federal Funding)

Expenses	1,060	
Direct Support to	303,995	
Independent Living programs		

TOTAL

305,055

Disability Determination Services (Federal Funding)

Salaries and Expenses	4,898,780	
Case Development	2,230,540	

TOTAL

7,127,320

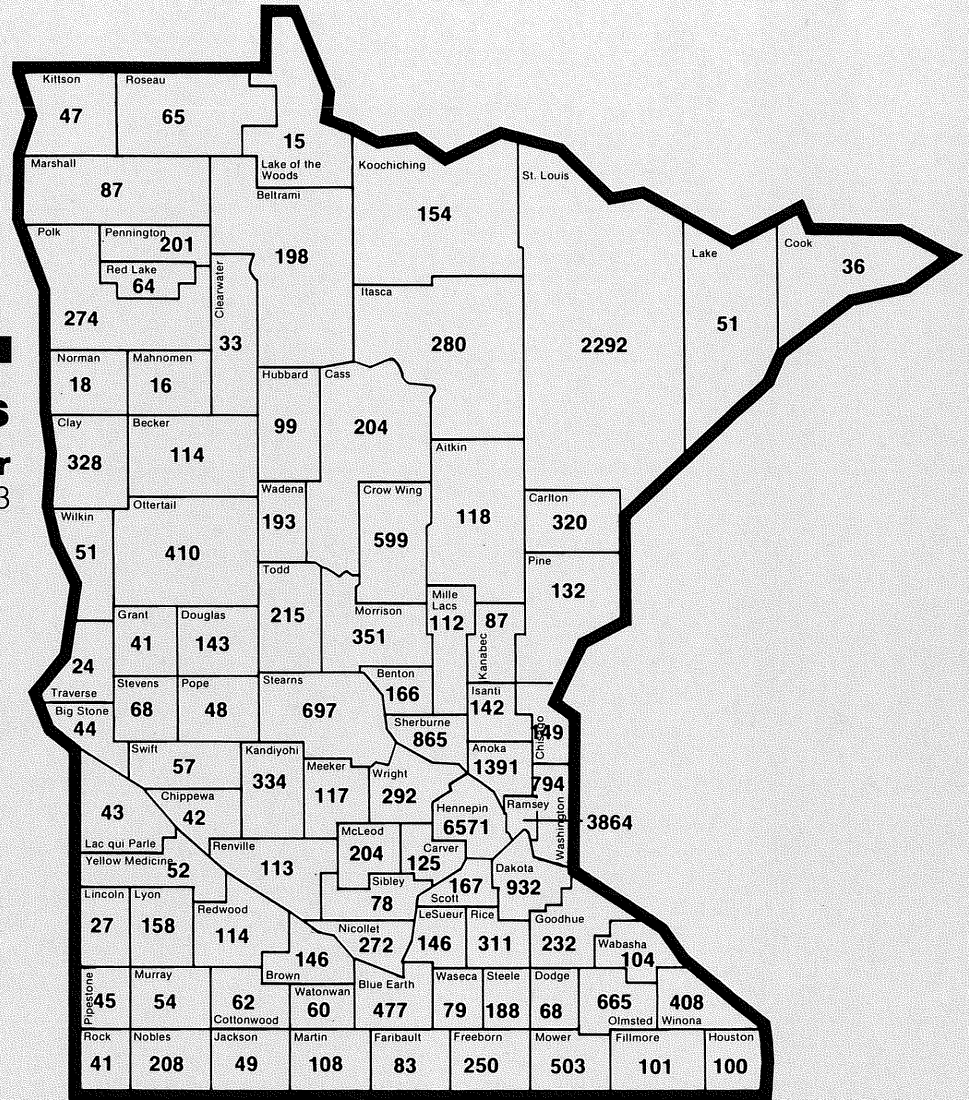
TOTAL DVR EXPENDITURES

32,502,825

Statistics

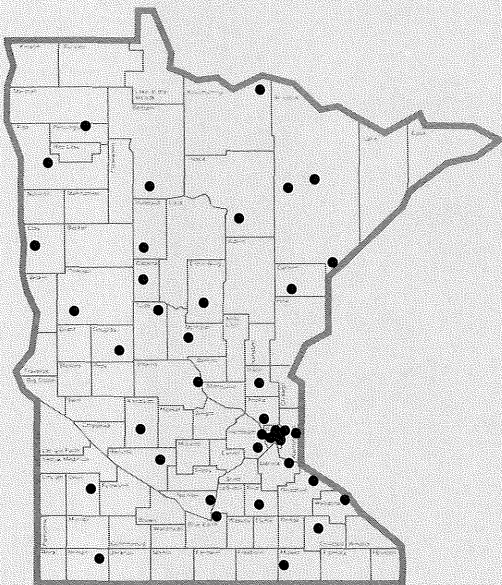
State Fiscal Year

July 1, 1982 - June 30, 1983



Caseload by County

DVR Offices



Administration

Space Center
444 Lafayette Rd.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-5616

Field Offices

Alexandria Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
302 South Kenwood St.
P.O. Box 907
Alexandria, MN 56308
(612) 762-2131 Ext. 228

Anoka County Field Office
D-62 Professional Building
950 Highway #10 Suite 101
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
(612) 341-7128

Austin Field Office
Austin Area Vocational-Technical Institute
1900 8th Avenue Northwest, Room 124A
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 433-0570

Bemidji Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1819 Bemidji Avenue
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 755-3980

Bloomington Public Schools
Special Vocational Rehabilitation Service Unit
8900 Portland Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55420
(612) 887-9159

Brainerd Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
1927 South Sixth Street
Brainerd, MN 56401
(218) 828-2530

Cambridge Field Office
East Side Plaza
East Highway 95
Route #5
Cambridge, MN 55008
(612) 689-3250

Crookston Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Hillview Offices
Highway #75 & MN Street
Crookston, MN 56716
(218) 281-1946

Duluth Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Suite 611, Government Center
320 W. Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4698

Faribault Field Office
Depot Square Building
303 Northeast First Avenue
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 332-3330

Fergus Falls CVRP Office
Cooperative Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Box 157, Memorial Bldg.
Fergus Falls State Hospital
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-7568

Fergus Falls Field Office
Lincoln Centre, Suite #3
125 West Lincoln Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-7565

Grand Rapids Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
401 11th Street S.E.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
(218) 327-1785

Hastings Field Office
206 Hastings Professional Bldg.
1250 Highway 55 West
Hastings, MN 55033
(612) 437-2137

Hector Field Office
Post Office Box 516
Hector, MN 55342
(612) 848-2254

Hibbing Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Mesabi Mall
Hwy. 69 & 37th Street, P.O. Box 3007
Hibbing, MN 55747
(218) 262-6780

International Falls Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
407 4th Street
International Falls, MN 55649
(218) 283-3436

Little Falls Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
211 S.E. 1st Street, Lindberg Square
Little Falls, MN 56345
(612) 632-5310

Mankato Field Office
709½ South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-6511

Marshall Field Office
1210 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
(612) 537-7280

Mendota Field Office
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
153B Thompson Ave. E.
West St. Paul, MN 55118
(612) 297-2623

Minneapolis Northeast Office
392 United Labor Center Bldg.
312 Central Avenue S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 341-7130

Minneapolis Northwest Office
Suite 214, 3300 County Road D
Minneapolis, MN 55429
(612) 341-7140

Workers' Compensation



The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides rehabilitation services to workers injured on the job through its Workers' Compensation Unit.

If a work-related condition or injury results in the loss of at least 30 days of work time in Minnesota, the employee may be entitled to rehabilitation services.

Minnesota's laws on Workers' Compensation provide the criteria for determining who is eligible. Laws in other states have different criteria. Eligibility in another state does not ensure that an individual would be entitled to rehabilitation services in Minnesota.

Services are provided or coordinated by DVR's trained vocational rehabilitation counselors who are registered with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry as QRCs (Qualified Rehabilitation Consultants).

Costs of these services are paid by insurance carriers, employers or special state funds, not by the injured worker.

Services:

- Job analysis
- Labor market surveys
- Vocational counseling
- Job development
- Testing
- On-the-job training
- Placement
- Training in job seeking skills
- Analysis of transferrable skills
- Follow-up
- Referral to other agencies for related assistance
- Monitoring/coordination of medical and training services

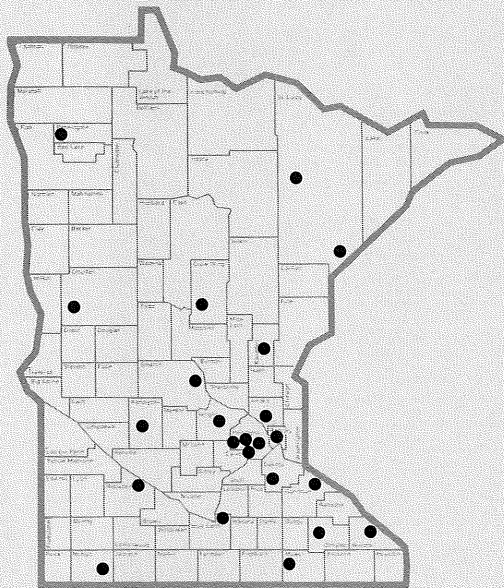
Services are designed to help injured workers return to work as quickly, economically and appropriately as possible. This often means a return to work with the present employer in either the same or another position. In some circumstances, it may be necessary to change both employer and type of work.

Injured workers have the right to select a QRC of their choosing; to take an active part in developing their own written rehabilitation plan; and to comment on or rate the services provided by DVR's Workers' Compensation Unit.

To assure good communications among all interested parties, monthly reports are sent to the injured worker, employer, insurance carrier, attorneys, physicians, the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and others concerned about the progress of the rehabilitation and a return to work for the rehabilitant.

DVR-Workers' Compensation offices are accessible to injured workers in all areas of the state.

Long-Term Sheltered Employment/Work Activity Program



Work Activity Stations

OUTSTATE TOTAL 3,084
 METROPOLITAN TOTAL 1,535
 STATEWIDE TOTAL 4,619

Twenty-eight Minnesota rehabilitation facilities provide long-term sheltered employment (LTSE) and work activity services to individuals who are capable of working but, because of their disabilities, are unable to meet the production demands of competitive employment.

Work activity programs provide paid work experience, training in self-care, social and other skills leading to greater independence for persons with such severe handicaps that their productivity is substantially below the sheltered employment level.

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) subsidizes rehabilitation facilities from state appropriations to cover the costs of maintaining work stations where client/workers engage in either sheltered employment or work activity.

Vocational evaluation, work adjustment training, placement and other services are purchased for DVR clients on a "fee for service" basis.

DVR is responsible for ensuring that sheltered workers are treated fairly and that the programs serving them meet legal, ethical and professional standards.

The rehabilitation facilities offering long-term sheltered employment/work activity programs are private non-profit organizations supported by the communities they serve.

In addition to the subsidy they receive from DVR, long-term sheltered employment/work activity programs receive a significant portion of their financial support from sub-contracts from the business community.

They also receive financial assistance from the United Way and county and local governments.

Locations

Ability Building Center
 4 Program Locations, 163 Work Stations
 P.O. Box 6938
 1911 14th St. N.W.
 Rochester, MN 55901
 (507) 289-1891

Brighter Day Achievement Center
 3 Program Locations, 114 Work Stations
 500 South Walnut Street
 Mora, MN 55051
 (612) 579-2354

Cedar Valley Rehabilitation Workshop
 8 Program Locations, 334 Work Stations
 2111 4th Street N.W.
 Austin, MN 55912
 (507) 433-2303

Cerebral Palsy Center, Inc.
 2 Program Locations, 203 Work Stations
 360 Hoover Northeast
 Minneapolis, MN 55413
 (612) 331-5958

Courage Center
 2 Program Locations, 200 Work Stations
 3915 Golden Valley Road
 Golden Valley, MN 55422
 (612) 588-0811

CWDC Industries, Inc.
 8 Program Locations, 237 Work Stations
 1500 18th Street So.
 Virginia, MN 55792
 (218) 741-7273

Functional Industries, Inc.
 4 Program Locations, 117 Work Stations
 P.O. Box 336
 Buffalo, MN 55313
 (612) 682-4336

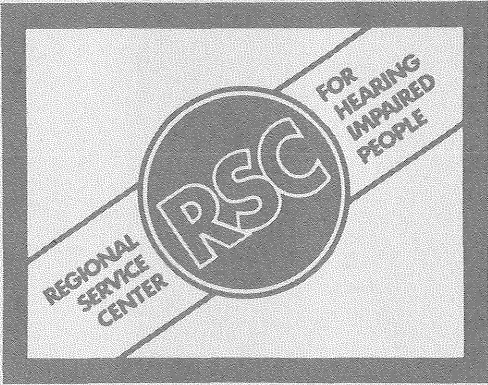
Duluth Goodwill Industries Vocational Enterprises (G.I.V.E.)
 4 Program Locations, 276 Work Stations
 700 Garfield Avenue
 Duluth, MN 55802
 (218) 722-6351

Goodwill Industries, Inc.
 2 Program Locations, 118 Work Stations
 2543 Como Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55108
 (612) 646-2591

Hennepin County Work Activity Program
 1 Program Location, 45 Work Stations
 1905 Third Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55404
 (612) 348-4947

Interstate Rehabilitation Center
 4 Program Locations, 127 Work Stations
 P.O. Box 404
 Red Wing, MN 55066
 (612) 388-7108

Regional Service Centers for Hearing Impaired People



The Regional Service Centers (RSC) for Hearing Impaired People Program was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1980 under provisions of the Hearing Impaired Services Act.

The centers are administered by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) in cooperation with the Deaf Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare (DPW).

Because the network of RSCs is a cooperative one, hearing impaired children and adults are assured a central entry point to the full range of community services for which they may be eligible.

Outreach workers from DPW provide assistance with welfare-related programs and DVR counselors provide vocational rehabilitation services.

Regional Service Centers are co-located with DVR field offices in Duluth, Fergus Falls, Mankato, St. Cloud and the Twin Cities Metropolitan area.

Staff members are trained specifically to serve hearing impaired persons. Most are skilled in sign language and interpreters always are available.

The programs provide direct services to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as to business and community groups and other agencies.

Each RSC is advised by a local group of consumers who are hearing impaired, professionals or parents of hearing impaired children.

Program Summary

PERSONS SERVED STATE FISCAL YEAR 1983

	6,148
SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS Counseling and technical assistance, message relays, information and referral	2,930
INTERPRETER SERVICES	1,929
EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS LOANS Telecommunication devices, alarm/signal devices, TV decoders, books, films/video tapes	1,371
SERVICES TO AGENCIES/EMPLOYERS	12,243
OUTREACH & COMMUNITY RELATIONS Casefinding, newsletter	

Locations

Duluth R.S.C.
Suite 611, Government Center
320 W. Second Street
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 723-4961 Voice/TTY/TDD

Fergus Falls R.S.C.
Lincoln Centre
125 W. Lincoln Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-7589 Voice/TTY/TDD

Mankato R.S.C.
709½ South Front Street
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-6517 Voice/TTY/TDD

Minneapolis R.S.C.
Third Floor
311 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 341-7100 Voice/TTY/TDD

Rochester R.S.C.
(Satellite Mankato R.S.C.)
Friedell Building
1200 South Broadway
Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 285-7295 Voice/TTY/TDD

St. Cloud R.S.C.
54 28th Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(612) 255-2224 Voice/TTY/TDD

Virginia R.S.C.
(Satellite Duluth R.S.C.)
505 W. 12th Avenue
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 741-5855 Voice/TTY/TDD

Disability Determination

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's (DVR) Office of Disability Determination Services (DDS), under an agreement with the Social Security Administration (SSA), makes determinations on a person's eligibility for disability benefits.

DDS examiners make these decisions based on medical information and/or psychological, vocational and social evaluations according to standards established by the SSA for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

In the course of examining a person's claim, DDS seeks information from the person's physicians or psychologists. If DDS is unable to obtain sufficient information to make a determination, DDS arranges for physicians and psychologists who provide in-depth medical analysis on Minnesota claimants applying for disability benefits.

The office also arranges for medical facilities, where consultative medical examinations of claimants can be performed if necessary. In such cases, travel, consultation and examination expenses are paid by the SSA.

An internal Quality Assurance Unit monitors claims to evaluate compliance with Social Security regulations, policies and procedures.

Those regulations specify performance standards for accuracy of DDS disability decisions and the time periods within which determinations must be made. The SSA also conducts on-going reviews of decisions made by DDS.

In addition to determining eligibility for benefits, DDS sees to it that persons who may benefit from vocational rehabilitation services are referred to the appropriate agency.

That agency could be either DVR in the Minnesota Department of Economic Security or the Blind and Visually Handicapped Services Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare.

All SSI claims of children under the age of 16 are referred to the Department of Health, Services for Children with Handicaps Division.

Cases of individuals receiving SSDI or SSI benefits receive a medical review at least once every three years unless disability is considered permanent. The interval for reviews of permanent disability cases is longer.

Through regulations or other written guidelines, the secretary of the federal Health and Human Services Department establishes standards of performance, administrative requirements and procedures to be followed by the states to assure effective and uniform administration of the SSA Disability Programs.

Program Summary

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 1983



Independent Living

In Minnesota, three Centers for Independent Living provide services designed to help severely disabled persons live more independently in their homes or communities and to assist them in preparing for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Program.

The philosophy and goals of the Independent Living concept evolved from an increased awareness of the unmet needs and rights of people with disabilities — an awareness which had its genesis in the civil rights, consumerism and self-help movements.

Passage by Congress of amendments to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 in 1978 with provision to establish and maintain Independent Living Programs was the culmination of cooperative efforts by people with disabilities, their families, advocates and the rehabilitation community.

The Minnesota Centers, located in Marshall, Rochester and the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area are operated by consumer-directed, private non-profit organizations which have contracts with DVR.

More than half the staff at each center is handicapped. Program and policy development is guided by recommendations from DVR's Independent Living Advisory Committee.

Services:

- Outreach
- Intake counseling
- Information and referral for: legal and economic rights housing transportation attendant care vocational rehabilitation/employment services
- Peer counseling/support groups
- Advocacy

- Coordination with other state and local agencies
- Assistive equipment (referrals, repairs, maintenance)

In addition to a wide range of services to meet the needs of individuals, the centers provide leadership and serve as a resource to their communities.

Funding for the three centers is provided by the State of Minnesota and federal grants. In addition, DVR is assisting the centers in efforts to seek additional funding from other sources.

DVR's long-term plans include a commitment to explore all potential financial resources in order to provide for expansion of the program to the central and northern areas of Minnesota. A statewide need for these services has been documented by three major disability studies.

Program Summary

NUMBER OF PERSONS SERVED	1,863
ATTENDANT CARE SERVICES	318
INFORMATION AND REFERRAL	2,392
PEER COUNSELING TRAINING	561
OTHER INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES	861

Locations

Metropolitan Center for Independent Living
c/o Walter Seibert, Director
1728 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104
(612) 646-8342

Rochester Center for Independent Living
c/o William Malleris, Director
1306 7th Street N.W.
Rochester, Minnesota 55901
(507) 285-1815

Rural Enterprises for Acceptable Living
c/o Roger Simon, Director
244 West Main
Marshall, Minnesota 56258
(507) 532-2221