



HDC

Human Development Center

House Workforce Development Policy and Finance Committee
Travis Reese

Dear: Mr. Reese:

I am writing to request your support for HF 1697 which would provide increase funding to the Individual Placement and Support program. As a pioneer provider of IPS services in Minnesota I can assure you that our agency is strongly committed to promoting employment for persons with mental illness.

HDC is a private, non-profit, organization that was established in 1938. HDC is a community mental health center that serves residents in four counties in northeastern Minnesota and one county in northwestern Wisconsin. Our mission is to lead our communities by providing integrated, culturally respectful mental health and addiction services that foster hope, self-determination, and recovery. Our focus on serving those most in need improves the quality of life for all. The Human Development Center was proud to be one of the first programs in Minnesota to develop IPS services with our own Employment Connection program starting in 2006. We have continued to be an active leader in the Minnesota IPS Learning Community and expanded IPS across our service delivery area in Northeastern Minnesota. We provide services in both urban and rural areas and across 3 counties. In 2015, the HDC Employment Connection program was recognized by the IPS International Learning Community as an outstanding IPS provider.

Without this funding increase current projects will be cut by 27% resulting in an estimated 350 individuals losing access to services. Please consider supporting HF 1697.

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Gangi, Program Supervisor
Human Development Center
(218) 728-3931

HDC's mission is to foster hope, resilience, and recovery by providing integrated, culturally respectful mental health and recovery services.

hdcnorth.org

Carlton County Campus
40 11th St
Cloquet, MN 55720

Hillside Campus
810 E 4th St
Duluth MN 55805

Douglas County Campus
1500 N 34th St
Superior WI 54880

Downtown Campus
120 W 2nd St
Duluth MN 55802

Lake County Campus
325 11th St
Two Harbors MN 55616

East Hillside Campus
1401 E 1st St
Duluth MN 55805

One Minnesota Budget



EMPOWERING MINNESOTANS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS PREPARE FOR, FIND AND KEEP EMPLOYMENT

Minnesotans with serious mental illness are far more likely to be unemployed than other Minnesotans - especially Minnesotans who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Lack of employment leads to high rates of poverty and poses a threat to the health and well-being of communities and people across the state.



Individual Placement and Supports - \$3.89 million increase

- Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) is an evidence-based practice that provides employment services and supports for individuals with serious mental illness.
- Funding for the Individual Placement and Supports program provides grant funding to nonprofit community rehabilitation partners who specialize in employment services. These employment services providers partner with mental health programs to provide comprehensive and coordinated employment and mental health services. Currently, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, Vocational Rehabilitation Services division awards 19 grants to 13 community rehabilitation partners across Minnesota that support IPS projects with 32 different mental health partners that integrate employment specialists into 58 mental health treatment teams across Minnesota.
- The One Minnesota Budget proposes an increase of \$3.89 million from the General Fund for the FY2024-25 biennium and going forward. The current base funding for the IPS program is \$5.110 million. The increase would bring the base funding to \$9 million.

ABSENT INCREASE, MINNESOTANS WILL LOSE ACCESS TO SERVICES

- The Legislature appropriated a one-time increase of funds for this program for FY20-23 with funds scheduled to decrease by almost \$1 million per year after FY23.
- **Absent this proposed funding increase**, current IPS grants will be cut by 27% leading to an estimated 350 individuals currently served by IPS losing access to these critical services.

INCREASE WILL SERVE MORE MINNESOTANS

- In addition to preserving services for 350 individuals served by one-time funds, this increase would allow the program to serve an additional 325 Minnesotans a year.
- Increased access to services throughout Minnesota is a critical need. Only 44 of Minnesota's 87 counties have some access to IPS services. In addition to expanded geographic access, there is significant need to expand access to services for individuals with serious mental illness who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color.

MINNESOTA LEADS THE NATION IN THE PERCENTAGE OF IPS PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED

IPS projects with state grants currently provide services to about 1,000 individuals, of whom 67% were working in integrated competitive employment during the past year. Minnesotans in the IPS program have the highest rate of employment attainment in the country – and they have since 2010. The most recent average employment attainment rate for IPS projects across the U.S. was 46%.

HOW IPS HELPS MINNESOTANS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

- » Increased self-esteem
- » Better control of psychiatric symptoms
- » Reduced psychiatric hospitalizations
- » Reduced criminal justice involvement
- » Increased self-sufficiency
- » Decreased dependence on others