



To: House Workforce Development Policy and Finance Committee

Please support HF 1697 which would provide increased funding to the Individual Placement and Support program. Our agency implemented the evidence based practice in 2014 and have since placed 166 individuals out of 203 for 82% placement.

These people have been helped through increased self-esteem, better control of psychiatric symptoms, reduced hospitalizations, reduced criminal justice involvement, increased self-sufficiency and decreased dependence upon others. Not to mention having income from working.

We serve individuals in Pipestone, Rock, Nobles, Jackson and Cottonwood Counties. Minnesota is the leading the country in placement numbers and across the world, where IPS is practiced. Without the funding increase, current projects will be cut by 27%, leading to about 350 people losing access to services. Passing HF 1697 will preserve services for these 350 people and allow for an increase to serve an additional 325 people.

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 and People of Color.

The IPS program is evidence based and easily administered to all people in need of services. 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. Please give the bill serious consideration as it is a win-win for Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Dempster", written in a cursive style.

Michael Dempster
Site Manager
Hope Haven - Worthington

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