

June 4, 2014

Elizabeth Akinola
Grants Management Specialist
US Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration

Dear Ms. Akinola,

In February Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services learned that it would receive an allocation of \$1,081,231 in FY 2014 Part C funds. This represents a \$33,883 increase over the FY 2013 allocation, of which \$10,841 is above our state's COLA. The distribution of this portion of the increase above the COLA for Centers for Independent Living (CILs) would be based on the FY 2014-2016 State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL), Section 3.2.

After a thorough review of the approved SPIL, the SILC, DSU and CILs agreed that, although the SPIL clearly addresses the distribution of Part C funds to CILs and the establishment of new CILs, it does not address the distribution of above-COLA dollars or the resources needed to establish new CILs. We agreed that a SPIL amendment would be necessary to receive the additional funding. The following steps were then taken:

- On April 10, 2014 the SILC held a public forum to solicit input from the public on the drafting of an amendment.
- On April 21, we submitted a draft amendment to RSA.
- The SILC posted a public hearing notice, and held a public hearing on May 30 to solicit input on the draft amendment.

The public hearing concluded with no comments or suggestions for modifications, other than minor grammatical and punctuation changes. Following the public hearing, the full council voted to accept the SPIL amendment as written.

We've attached Minnesota's 2014-2016 SPIL amendment. Please contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kimberley T. Peck
Director
MN Vocational Rehabilitation Services



Heidi Johnson
Chair
MN Statewide Independent Living Council

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

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