

WHERE TO GET HELP:

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Mental Retardation Program Office
Department of Public Welfare
Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
612/296-2160

LOCAL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

(Mental Retardation Generalist)

**LOCAL COUNTY WELFARE
OR SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCY**

**ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCES FOR THE
RETARDED IN MINNESOTA**

459 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
612/225-6551

MINNESOTA ARC

3225 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408
612/827-5641
(Ask for the name and number of the Regional
Representative in your area)

**UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF MINNESOTA,
INC.**

Griggs-Midway Building
1821 University Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104
612/646-7588

**GOVERNOR'S PLANNING AND ADVISORY
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES**

Capitol Square Building
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
612/296-4018
(Ask for the name and number of the DD
Planner in your region)

MINNESOTA EPILEPSY LEAGUE

529 Jackson Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
612/225-5230

**SO YOU WANT TO START
A HOME FOR THE
DEVELOPMENTALLY
DISABLED**



**A MESSAGE TO THE
PROSPECTIVE DEVELOPER**

This is a message to all those in Minnesota who wish to develop a COMMUNITY HOME for persons who are DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED. This message comes to you from a group of private facility operators, consultants, MinnARC members, and mental retardation professionals who were asked by the Department of Public Welfare to develop some useful suggestions for those contemplating the development of a new facility. DPW officials felt that the collective experience of this group might assist newcomers in the field.

The underlying philosophy behind most private facilities is that developmentally-disabled (persons who are mentally retarded or who have epilepsy or cerebral palsy) are entitled to a way of life that is as NORMAL, UNRESTRICTIVE, and HUMANE as possible—a life in the community. While each facility has a philosophy of its own, suited to its own circumstances, most successful facilities have a formal written statement of philosophy which incorporates similar sentiments.

In preparing this message, we assumed that you already have some idea of what you want to do. You probably have a specific group of persons in mind. You have some notion of their needs. You have thought about the objectives of your program in meeting those needs. You may even have begun to design activities aimed at achieving those objectives. If you have not already done so, may we suggest that you get your ideas down on paper in a formal statement of what your project is all about? We think you will find this statement helpful at various stages along the way toward completing your project.

There are many places to get assistance in developing a philosophy and designing a program. The first place to contact is the TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT of the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, or your AREA MENTAL HEALTH-MENTAL RETARDATION CENTER. After need is determined for a target group, other sources of assistance are your local COUNTY WELFARE DEPARTMENT, ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENCES FOR THE RETARDED IN MINNESOTA (ARRM), REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PLANNER, your local and state ARC, the EPILEPSY LEAGUE, UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY ASSOCIATION, and the local SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR in the schools. The necessary phone numbers are listed on the reverse side.

Once you have some general notion of what you want your project to achieve, it is time to consider the many complex issues involved in the development of your project. These include: 1) organization issues (e.g., whether to incorporate, whether to go to nonprofit or proprietary); 2) funding issues (e.g., where to find start-up capital, how to receive operating income); 3) architectural and building-site issues; 4) how to build community support for the project; 5) how to design a program in detail; 6) staffing issues; and 7) how to obtain the necessary licenses and certifications.

A more detailed document to assist the prospective developer in wrestling with these matters is available from many of the sources listed above. First contacts should be with the TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT.

We sincerely hope that this information has helped you. We wish you great success in your project.

Prepared by:

Community Alternatives Committee
Mental Retardation-Development
Disabilities Program Office
Department of Public Welfare
Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, Mn 55155

Any applicant or recipient who feels he is discriminated against in any manner in the handling of a public welfare application or payment because of race, color, or national origin, may file a complaint under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with the Minnesota Department of Public Welfare, Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55155, or the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Washington, D.C. 22201, or both.