



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

March 17, 2004

**TO: County Directors / Administrators
Social Service Directors
Social Service Managers and Supervisors
Public Health Administrators
Other Interested Parties**

**FR: Laura Doyle, Disability Services Division
Lisa Rotegard, Aging and Adult Services**

RE: Federal Approval of Consumer Directed Community Supports

The Disability Services Division is pleased to announce that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have approved Minnesota's request to amend the Long Term Care Waivers and the Mental Retardation/Related Conditions Waiver, to provide Consumer Directed Community Support (CDCS) services within each of these waiver programs.

Minnesota is on the cutting edge in promoting consumer-directed supports, and this service will provide many Minnesotans increased flexibility in determining and designing supports that best meet their needs. Counties will be receiving additional information regarding the implementation of this service in the upcoming months. We look forward to your support and guidance in structuring the implementation of the service in a manner that is helpful to county agencies, waiver recipients and their support teams.

There will be a minimal transition period of six months before this service will be available to consumers. This allows counties and the state time to develop the needed infrastructure.

Thank you to those of you who helped this become a reality for Minnesotans served through these waivers.