

SERVICE OPTIMIZATION WITHIN EXISTING ALLOCATIONS

In July 1998, the Department received federal approval to serve additional waiver recipients without using additional funding. When county agencies do not fully use their allowable waiver resources, they are then able to optimize services using the available funds to serve people who have been waiting for waived services.

Service optimization is available to county agencies or partnerships who meet the following criteria:

- Have paid claims for waived services which less than their annual waiver budget;
- Have implementation plans for meeting requests for institutional discharges, including anyone living in regional treatment centers, the Minnesota Extended Treatment Options (METO) program, or community-based ICFs/MR that are closing or downsizing;
- Agree to continue to plan for the on-going and future needs of current waiver recipients;
- Offer waiver services in a consumer-directed service delivery manner; and
- Have implemented a quality assurance plan that exceeds the current scope of health and safety assurances.

Priority for service optimization is given to county partnerships (or larger county agencies who would not benefit from partnership formation) and agencies with eligible recipients who are living in unstable situations due to the age or incapacity of their primary caregiver. As of October 1999, the Department has awarded 58 service optimization allocations to 27 counties. Through these allocations, an additional 30 persons are currently receiving waived services,