



## Support

# Home and Community Based Services Innovation Pool

**The Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Innovation Pool is a competitive grant program through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.** These funds offer incentives to shift disability services to a more person-centered system by utilizing innovative approaches for transition age youth and anyone with disabilities to meet their full potential for living, working and playing in the community. ***Applicants have access and a stake in shifting the system with their expertise.***

**Applicants submit proposals and are paid an incentive when people meet certain benchmarks in:**

- Achieving integrated, competitive employment;
- Living in the most integrated setting;
- Connecting with others in their communities.

### 2018 proposal

- Add \$1M to the base funding for the health and human services budget in FY2020-2021. Funds were increased for this innovation pool in FY2018-2019.
- Change the name to the HCBS Innovation Pool (current statute is Incentive Pool).

### Current funding

HCBS Innovation Pool grants are distributed in three parts:

1. **Microgrant Program** | The Arc Minnesota administers a microgrant program that gives Minnesotans with disabilities up to \$2,000 to pursue person-centered goals around competitive employment; accessible, inclusive housing; and community integration goals. Since launching the program in October 2017, The Arc Minnesota has approved 35 requests and anticipates providing microgrants to approximately 300 Minnesotans with disabilities by December 31, 2018 to help them achieve their goals.
2. **Small Grant Program** | Grantees between \$2,000-\$50,000 for people and organizations that work or plan to work with Minnesotans with disabilities. DHS created a shorter application and easier process based on the size of organizations and projects. As of early 2018, DHS is awarding the first round of grants.
3. **Large Grant Program** | These grants promote and implement innovative ideas over several years to improve outcomes for people with disabilities integrated employment, community living and integration.

For questions, contact:

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## Current Grantees\*

- **Altair Accountable Care Organization** aims to develop for up to 50 people a LifePlan identifying the wants and needs of each person and a plan for achievement. The project goal is to increase the number of people with disabilities in competitive employment, living in the most integrated setting and having valued social roles in the community.
- **Community Involvement Programs** will provide training, technical assistance and support to people directing their own supports and services. The project will focus using a self-discovery tool with 36 people as they direct their own services to gain competitive employment.
- **Kapasia** will use funding to secure integrated, competitive employment for up to 30 people. Kapasia will work with two school districts in the Twin Cities area on a discovery process so that 20 students with disabilities will begin competitive jobs before leaving high school. This funding will also help establish a leadership group of current day treatment and habilitation providers focused on moving toward competitive, integrated employment of people with disabilities.
- **Lifetrack Resources** is developing a competitive, integrated employment program for refugees and immigrants with disabilities. This grant will provide culturally specific employment training and services to new Americans in the Twin Cities, particularly those with mental illness. Up to 30 people will find competitive employment through the grant.
- **Midwest Special Services (MSS)** will convert their East Side St. Paul day training and habilitation facility to a community hub where employment training, art training and other resources are provided to the whole community, including people with disabilities. In addition, up to 50 people will receive training and skills building in the venue of their choice, including the visual and culinary arts.
- **Centers for Independent Living in the Twin Cities metro, Central Minnesota and Southeastern Minnesota** will launch an in-depth, evidence-based civic engagement training and mentoring program to help 120 people with disabilities be effective self-advocates.
- **RISE of St. Paul and Minneapolis** will fund the Work is for Everyone program to place up to 32 people with complex and significant disabilities in competitive, integrated employment. This program will focus on employment of people who have not had the opportunity to try competitive employment.
- **STAR Services** will provide six applicants with person-centered planning services, including organization-wide trainings and mentoring on person-centered practices. STAR will also provide training on community inclusion to organizations and communities.
- **The Arc Minnesota** will lead a statewide employment training and capacity building initiative called A Working Life Alliance. The goal is to achieve a statewide vision of competitive employment for people with disabilities including: introducing 350 people to competitive employment options; establishing 12 employment learning communities to support 180 job seekers; creating an accessible employment toolkit; and providing a variety of employment trainings and workshops throughout Minnesota.
- **Touchstone Mental Health** will provide support and services for up to 44 people so that they can maintain their housing while experiencing a mental health crisis or psychiatric hospitalization. Strategies will include landlord incentives, pre-housing access services and flexible funding to assist with applications, deposit, rent, moving expenses and supplies.

\* Specific details may have changed in final grant contracts.

