



Oregon

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The Honorable Alan Bates, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
900 Court Street NE,
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

This is in response to the committee's questions during the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) hearing on March 10, 2013

Below are responses to the questions re: Centers for Independent Living

Why aren't Centers for Independent Living (CILs) in all parts of the state?

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), in the Department of Education, to grassroots consumer groups who specify their service areas (counties). Service areas were determined by available funding. There has not been a competition for center funding in over a decade. Five of Oregon's CILs were established by grassroots consumer initiatives that applied for and receive funds directly from (RSA). Two Oregon CILs grew from grassroots consumer initiatives and receive funds through grants administered by Vocational Rehabilitation (VR). These seven CILs comply with the Rehabilitation Act, Section 725, CIL Standards and Assurances.

What are the CIL funding sources?

The Rehabilitation Services Administration provides the majority of the funds for Independent Living (IL) services. The State of Oregon also provides some funds for IL services. Vocational Rehabilitation manages the funds and executes grants with the seven CILs in Oregon. CILs individually seek private funding through various venues including grants and community donations.

How is funding assigned to the CILs?

The State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) specifies how CIL funding will be distributed to the seven CILs in Oregon. The SPIL is co-developed by the State Independent Living Council, Vocational Rehabilitation and Oregon Commission for the Blind, with input from the CILs and the public.

What services are offered by CIL's?

CILs are peer-based organizations that provide four core services promoting self-direction, independence and empowerment for people with disabilities. The core services include: Information and Referral, Peer Counseling, Individual and Systems Advocacy, and Skills Training. CILs also partner with state, local and individual programs to address the needs of the local communities they serve. Examples of these services are the Work Incentives Network, STEPS, voter registration, Ryan White Case Management, disability navigator, durable medical equipment loans, Brain Train[®], ADA consultation, emergency preparedness, etc.

How do you calculate Cost Avoidance?

A recent study of a 3% sample of CIL services estimated annual savings at \$2,405,277. The sample of CIL services included those related to transitioning out of nursing care or inpatient mental health services, promoting employment, transitioning from homelessness to housing, eliminating unnecessary emergency room visits, loaning equipment, and/or providing information and referral services.

There are multiple approaches to calculating cost avoidance benefits from CIL services and no universally accepted approach due to the variety of services and wide spectrum of consumers served. The impact on public funding and increased revenue through employment resulting from CIL services is difficult to measure.

Other Questions

What was the percentage of clients who return for services to VR?

The return rate for clients to the VR Program since 1998 was 31 percent of clients that returned more than once for services from the VR program.

Total expenditures per client

The cost per case in FFY12 was \$2,846 (this represents total program expenditures – Title 110 and Title VI-B – divided total clients in the program.)

Data for Average Salary

The average weekly earnings for rehabilitated VR clients in FFY12 was \$1,414.29

For FFY12, the range in weekly earnings was \$76.21 to \$9,084.34.

Listed below are the top five occupations in terms of weekly earnings:

Top Occupations FFY12 by Weekly Earnings, and Number Rehabilitated				
Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Code	Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Description	Number Rehabilitated	Total Weekly earnings	Avg Weekly Earnings
69999	All Other Service Workers	491	\$ 489,417.82	\$996.78
59999	All Other Clerical And Administrative Support Workers	103	\$ 155,065.31	\$1,505.49
67005	Janitors And Cleaners, Except Maids And Housekeeping Cleaners	95	\$ 96,620.75	\$1,017.06
65099	All Other Food Service Workers	88	\$ 76,938.21	\$ 874.30
98999	All Other Helpers, Laborers, And Material Movers, Hand	85	\$ 111,860.18	\$1,316.00

Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



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ELM/cw

cc: Laurie Byerly