

ILLINOIS -- 2001 Real Choice Systems Change Grant

Identified Problems with the States' Long-Term Care System

- Need to enhance coordination between state agencies.
- Lack of access to affordable, accessible housing.
- Difficulty in accessing assistive technology for consumers.
- Difficulty obtaining needed support services once a person is settled in a community.
- Consumers may be living in the community, but not actively involved in the community.
- Unavailability of immediate alternatives to nursing facilities in some communities.

Perceived Strengths

- The state's two agencies—the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Offices of Rehabilitation Services (ORS) and Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)—have provided reintegration services for many years using the Community Service Delivery Agents (CSDAs) and Centers for Independent Living (CILs).
- The state has been able to show the cost-benefit of transitioning back to the community.
- The public mental health system has a well-developed advisory structure.

Primary Focus of Grant Activities

- Improve coordination to address fragmentation in existing delivery system.
- Improve availability of affordable accessible housing.
- Increase use of Person-Centered Planning.
- Transitioning people from institutions to community living.

Goals, Objectives, and Activities

Overall Goal. To enhance the existing system of long-term supports and services to emphasize a consumer driven approach to community integration.

Goal. Foster ongoing communication between agencies and CSDAs, and use self-assessment by CSDAs to encourage changes in procedures and policies.

Objectives/Activities

- Analyze existing policies and practices of CSDAs and develop new ones.
- Develop a model person-centered assessment plan beginning with DHS-ODDS.
- Analyze cost/benefit of new protocols.
- Make changes to the data collection system and develop legislative and budget initiatives.

- Provide funding to CSDAs to hire a staff person in each of the 2 communities—Rockford and Southern Illinois—to help manage project activities.

Goal. Create more effective strategies for developing, locating and maintaining affordable, accessible housing resources.

Objectives/Activities

- Develop a housing training package and strategies to recruit and retain landlords.
- Analyze cost/benefits of providing initial expenses.
- Develop legislative and budget initiatives.

Goal. Identify and develop tools for consumers and CSDAs to assist those who want to transition from institutional to community settings.

Objectives/Activities

- Develop an inventory of needed training resources and tools.
- Provide a community partner fund to enable CSDAs in Rockford and Southern Illinois to pay for the cost of project activities.
- Train CSDAs on assessing assistive technology needs.
- Develop an internet-based manual on accessing funding for assistive technology.
- Develop a video and training package regarding guardianship.
- Provide start-up grants to approximately 50 individuals to enable them to move into the community in Rockford and Southern Illinois.
- Provide funding for any technical assistance and training needs that are identified by the Community Service Delivery Agents in the course of their review (cost includes accessibility accommodation).

Goal. Establish a framework for successful long-term community supports for those persons who transition.

Objectives/Activities

- Develop training resources for interagency service provision
- Create a service resource tool
- Identify fiscal/legislative support needed to advance and support community options.

Key Activities and Products

- Develop a model person-centered assessment plan beginning with DHS-ODDS.
- Analyze cost/benefit of new protocols.
- Develop a housing training package and strategies to recruit and retain landlords.
- Develop a training package on person-centered planning concepts.

- Develop an internet-based manual on accessing funding for assistive technology.
- Develop a video and training package regarding guardianship.

Consumer Partners and Consumer Involvement in Planning Activities

A Consumer Task Force (CTF) convened from a Steering Committee of the existing Olmstead planning group, which included consumers, helped develop the grant.

Consumer Partners and Consumer Involvement in Implementation Activities

The CTF will monitor progress, receive implementation information from local consumers and CSDAs, analyze findings, and provide advice to the State Inter-Agency Team.

Public Partners

- Department of Human Services Office of Rehabilitation Services.
- Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Disabilities Services.
- Department on Aging.
- Illinois Housing Development Authority.
- Department of Public Aid.
- State Inter-Agency Team, which includes representatives from all the listed agencies.

Private Partners and Subcontractors

- Community Service Delivery Agents will be used to execute many of the project's activities.
- Centers for Independent Living.
- Pre-Admission Screening/Independent Service Coordination Agencies.
- Mental Health Networks.
- Area Agencies on Aging.
- Case Coordination Units (CCUs vary in structure; some are nonprofits while some are public agencies and county health departments).

Public and Private Partnership Development/Involvement in the Planning Phase

Public Partners

The public partners listed above were all part of the Olmstead planning group.

Private Partners

Several of the private partners and subcontractors listed above were involved in the Olmstead Stakeholder process.

Public and Private Partnership Development/Involvement in Implementation

Public Partners

The public partners will have representatives on the State Inter-Agency Team that will implement the grant.

Private Partners

The CSDAs will make recommendations at the local level.

Existing Partnerships That Will Be Utilized to Leverage or Support Project Activities

- Illinois has great interest in expanding the use of assistive technology as a strategy to enhance the independence of people with disabilities. The Illinois Assistive Technology Project (ITAP) (a service provider on contract with the state) is applying for a federal grant to establish a loan fund to assist consumers in purchasing assistive devices and the state has committed \$500,000 in matching funds if they receive the grant. The state has also added \$500,000 to FY02 budget for additional devices to be purchased and loaned to consumers.
- DHS/ODD has also contracted with the Assistive Technology Unit of the Department of Disability and Human Development of the University of Illinois at Chicago to determine assistive technology needs and capabilities in Southern Illinois. The grant will be used to expand these activities in additional service areas.

Oversight/Advisory Committee

A Consumer Task Force will monitor the progress of grant activities. The State Inter-Agency Team will serve as the primary vehicle of coordination among and between the government partners and the CTF.

Formative Learning and Evaluation Activities

- Tracking tools will be developed to collect and analyze data
- Project staff, CSDAs, and academic partners to be chosen at the local level by CSDAs will develop and collect information necessary for tracking progress on project initiated changes and the achievement of project objectives.
- The project will convene community level teams comprising CSDAs and consumers across disability areas who will exchange information and work together to identify problems and offer solutions. This information will be shared with the statewide Consumer Task Force and the State Inter-Agency Team. This process will facilitate the discussion of issues and proposed solutions at both the community level and in the larger statewide policy arena.

Evidence of Enduring Change/Sustainability

The following grant products will be used after the grant ends:

- Person-centered plan development template.
- Housing training package.

- Internet-based manual on accessing funding for assistive technology
- Video and training package regarding guardianship

Geographic Focus

Southern Illinois and Rockford.