

Direct Care and Treatment: Services maintained, options expanded, commitment to most vulnerable reaffirmed

In the 2019 session, state leaders sustained their commitment to direct care for vulnerable Minnesotans with disabilities and mental illness, while providing adequate resources to ensure safe preparation, reintegration and supervision of civilly committed sex offenders.

Appropriations for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) allow the program to maintain Community Preparation Services, a less restrictive environment that prepares civilly committed sex offenders to live in the community when courts order them discharged. MSOP also received funding for essential supervision and monitoring of clients who are now living in communities under court-approved provisional discharges.

State-operated residential group homes and vocational services received an operating adjustment to continue serving more than 1,100 people with disabilities. Additional funding for mental health treatment facilities will increase options for people with mental illness who are ready to leave hospital-level care in state facilities.

2019 legislation

Community Preparation Services and monitoring for provisionally discharged sex offenders. The Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) received funding to maintain operations at Community Preparation Services on the St. Peter campus, a less restrictive environment that prepares clients to live in the community. MSOP also received funding to provide close supervision, case management and other essential services to clients who have been provisionally discharged by the courts and live in community settings. Counties will pay part of the cost of care for provisionally discharged clients. *FY 2020-21: \$16 million.*

Residential and vocational services for people with disabilities. An operating adjustment will allow Community-Based Services (CBS) to continue serving over 1,100 people with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and other conditions. The adjustment fills a gap between the program's revenue and costs, allowing CBS to become financially stable and serve more challenging clients not served by private providers. CBS operates more than 150 group homes and vocational facilities statewide. *FY 2020-21: \$5.3 million.*

Minnesota Specialty Health System. People with mental illness will have more options when they no longer need hospital-level care in state psychiatric facilities, with two Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) facilities funded to operate at full capacity of 16 beds each. Staffing ratios will increase, improving care. Minnesota Specialty Health System operates four IRTS for people with mental illness, in Brainerd, Wadena, Willmar and St. Paul. In addition, changes were made to the way the programs are funded, resulting in savings. *FY 2020-21: General Fund Savings of \$16.4 million.*

Competency Restoration Task Force. A Community Competency Restoration Task Force was established to take an in-depth look at treatment for individuals who have committed crimes but are later deemed incompetent to stand trial because of mental illness. The panel, which will include members from a wide variety of stakeholder groups, must deliver its report and recommendations to legislative leaders by Feb. 1, 2021.

Related information

- [DHS 2019 session fact sheets](#)

DHS Communications: June 2019