

IPS Cuts_Email from Provider

Dear [Senator/Representative] [Last Name],

As a provider of Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services in Minnesota, I am writing to urge you to protect funding for this critical program. IPS is a lifeline for individuals with serious mental illness, helping them secure and maintain competitive, integrated employment. The proposed funding cuts would have devastating consequences—not just for those we serve, but for our communities and our entire state.

IPS is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program that is fully integrated with mental health care. It is person-centered, focused on client choice, and designed to move people quickly into employment while providing ongoing support.

However, IPS is now facing two major funding threats:

- **A Proposed \$1 Million Budget Cut:** The Governor's FY26 budget proposes a 61% cut to IPS base funding, slashing it from \$2.55 million to \$1.55 million. This means that instead of serving 726 people annually, only 285 would have access, leaving 441 individuals without critical employment support.
- **Expiration of Temporary Funding:** One-time funding approved in 2023 will run out after FY26, creating another funding crisis in FY27. Without new funding, an additional 400 people will lose access to services.

The combined effect would reduce IPS services by 75%, which would not only impact individuals seeking employment but would also weaken Minnesota's workforce and increase reliance on public programs such as Social Security and Medicaid. IPS is a proven investment in economic self-sufficiency, helping people earn more, stay employed longer, and reduce dependency on state assistance.

IPS services are at risk in 44 counties across Minnesota, including [customize with specific counties if relevant]. Many areas, especially rural and underserved communities, still lack IPS programs. Instead of cutting funding, we should be expanding access to ensure more Minnesotans can benefit from these life-changing services.

I urge you to take action to protect and sustain IPS by:

1. Rejecting the Governor's proposed \$1 million cut to IPS base funding.
2. Supporting HF1985/SF670 to extend temporary funding.
3. Committing to stable, long-term funding to maintain and expand IPS across Minnesota.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and provide additional insights from my experience as a provider. Thank you for your time and leadership on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Organization]