Budget Unit Brief
FY 2017

LSA
LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY

Conners Training

Description

The Conners Training appropriation provides training, educational materials, and transition funding to individuals living in the State Resource Centers that wish to move to a home or community-based setting. The Department of Human Services (DHS) contracts with the Center for Excellence at the University of Iowa to administer the Program.

Conners Training provides funding for educational services, including the website www.disabilitytraining.org, the "Let's Talk Disability" blog, the Possibilities newsletter, and a Facebook page. In addition, the appropriation provides a very limited amount of funding to fill in small gaps for people transitioning to a home or community-based setting. Funding is provided to cover such items as rent, utilities, and other small items during a transition. In FY 2016, funding for transition supported 5 individuals moving to a community setting, and helped 14 individuals remain in the community. The average cost-per-person was $1,071.

Background

The Conners Training appropriation is the result of a Consent Decree resulting from a court challenge of Iowa's institutionally-based model of services for persons with developmental disabilities. Iowa Protection and Advocacy Services, Inc. filed a class action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa on behalf of Evert Conner and current or future residents of Glenwood or Woodward State Hospital-Schools. The parties entered into a Consent Decree approved on December 2, 1994. Among the provisions in the decree, the state agreed to provide individualized treatment plans to class members, provide training and employment opportunities, notify individuals if they are eligible to receive community-based services, and develop a five-year plan for creating community support and services. In 1995, the Conner Advisory Committee was convened and created the "Plan for Community Development," the five-year plan called for in the Consent Decree.

Funding

There is an annual appropriation of $33,622 from the General Fund for Conners Training. Of this, approximately $20,350 is spent on transition funding for individuals, and the remaining funds are spent on education.

Related Statutes

Conner v. Branstad, No. 4-86-CV-30871 (433 S.D. Iowa, July 14, 1994)

Revised September 16, 2016

More Information

Department of Human Services: http://dhs.iowa.gov/

Iowa General Assembly: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/

LSA Staff Contact: Jess Benson (515-281-4611) jess.benson@legis.iowa.gov