

Fact Sheet: Fund the State Quality Council

The Arc Minnesota Position

- Support [HF 975/SF 902](#). These bills will fund the State Quality Council and its activities, which will help ensure the highest possible quality for disability services in Minnesota.

Why We Need Additional Measures to Improve Quality

- Minnesota lacks a comprehensive system for ensuring the quality of disability services.
- Instances of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities in recent years make improvements to our quality assurance system more urgent. The 2011 Jensen court settlement in favor of individuals with disabilities who were handcuffed and shackled at the Minnesota Extended Treatment Options program shows maltreatment can still occur.
- State licensing of disability services may ensure those programs comply with minimal standards, but it does not ensure that the programs are meeting the needs of those they serve.
- Better ways to ensure quality will help determine if services use public funds as effectively as possible.
- Our system of improving service quality should be more proactive to prevent problems from occurring.



Background

- In 2011, Minnesota approved the creation of a [State Quality Council](#). The Council was charged with improving the state's system for ensuring that disability services are the highest possible quality. The council is committed to a quality system that is person-centered, quality-driven, outcome-based, and effective in its use of public funds.
- In the [2013 State Quality Council Legislative Report](#), the Council made these recommendations:
 - ✓ Statewide surveys of people with disabilities that will help identify opportunities for improvement.
 - ✓ A review of current data collected to identify significant trends that need action.
 - ✓ Funding for three Regional Quality Councils. Each council will lead local efforts to improve quality and implement new licensing systems that ensure the voices of people with disabilities are heard.
 - ✓ Continued funding for the State Quality Council.
- The above recommendations were not funded in 2013 or 2014.

Legislative Action

- Legislation has been introduced by Senator Kent Eken ([SF 902](#)) and Representative Rod Hamilton ([HF 975](#)) to fund the State Quality Council.