



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 131
[2013 Assembly Bill 459]

**Placement and Support for
Individuals With Mental Illness**

2013 Wisconsin Act 131 creates a program within the Department of Health Services (DHS) for individual placement and support (IPS) for individuals with mental illness and provides funding for the program. An IPS program is an evidence-based practice designed to help promote the recovery of people who have serious mental illness through competitive jobs related to their employment preferences.

The appropriations and funding in the Act are repealed on July 1, 2015.

Infrastructure Pilot Grants

The Act provides \$400,000 in 2013-14 general purpose revenue (GPR) for infrastructure pilot grants and authorizes DHS to award these grants to county and tribal programs and employment sites that implement IPS services, or to regional centers, for any of the following activities:

- Implementing IPS programs.
- Offsetting costs until a program is capable of billing the Medical Assistance program.
- Becoming a provider of vocational rehabilitation services through the Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

DHS must award infrastructure pilot grants in the total amount of \$400,000, using a graduated outcome or incentive payment schedule.

An applicant for a grant must identify future sources of possible funding to support the IPS program.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

Regional IPS Centers

The Act requires DHS to create five regional IPS centers, as follows.

1. A Northwestern Wisconsin region.
2. A South-Central Wisconsin region.
3. A region consisting of a consortium of counties in Northeastern Wisconsin
4. A region consisting of a consortium of counties in Central Wisconsin.
5. A consortium of counties in the Southeastern Wisconsin region consisting of Milwaukee, Waukesha, and Racine Counties.

DHS must ensure that each county in the state is served by one of the regional centers. DHS may contract with existing organizations or consortiums to create any regional center. DHS must ensure that each regional center has access to the services of an IPS trainer or mentor and an IPS supervisor.

The Act provides \$450,000 GPR in the 2013-14 fiscal biennium for IPS operations, and to support IPS trainers, mentors, and supervisors. The Act does not specify the number of individuals to be funded or the salary amounts to be provided.

DHS and regional centers must provide or arrange for work incentive benefits counseling for individuals who are not receiving vocational rehabilitation services from DWD. The Act provides \$120,000 GPR in 2013-14 for work incentive benefits counseling.

Medicaid Matching Funds

DHS must seek any approval from the federal Department of Health and Human Services that is necessary to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds, if available, for reimbursement of IPS services.

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Prepared by: Mary Matthias, Principal Attorney

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