



Regional Quality Council Quarterly Update March 2021

Working together to improve the quality of life
for people with disabilities

General Updates

In January, Governor Walz shared his proposed budget for 2022. As a cost-savings measure, Governor Walz proposed that the appropriation for the State Quality Council be permanently eliminated, which includes funding for the Regional Quality Councils (RQCs). You can find the change page for this budget proposal on page 162 of the Human Services section, [here](#).

While this proposed cut is concerning to the RQCs, it is not final.

In response to this proposal, RQC statewide staff and supervisors have engaged in legislative outreach and grassroots advocacy efforts by meeting and communicating with legislators, the governor's office, and staff at the Department of Human Services (DHS). You can find the RQC 1-Pager resource used in our outreach efforts on our website: <https://qualitycouncilmn.org/wp-content/uploads/RQC-Resource-Final-2.2021.pdf>

This is where we need your help.

One important way you can support these efforts is by emailing your legislators about the work of the RQCs, our impact, and why this work is important to you or the communities we serve. You can use our drafted email below or write your own:

Dear *[insert legislator's name]*,

My name is *[insert name]* and I am a concerned constituent.

First, I want to thank you for your work supporting Minnesotans who have disabilities. With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to impact our state and resulting in significant budget constraints, I am grateful for your ongoing commitment and leadership.

I am writing today to express my concerns in response to Governor Walz's recent proposed budget, which indicates the elimination of funding for the Minnesota State Quality Council, which includes funding for the Regional Quality Councils. For five years we have successfully partnered with the Department of Human Services to carry out their initiatives to ensure people with disabilities are receiving quality home and community-based services across the board. I believe that, now more than ever, our work is vitally important, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic has detrimentally impacted access to individualized, inclusive, community-based support services for Minnesotans who have disabilities. It is important to continue to build on what has been accomplished and work towards our initial goal of establishing Regional Quality Councils across the state.

As a [insert stakeholder group or identity], the work of the Regional Quality Councils is important to me because *[insert your story or reasons]*.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have continued to impact the quality of services and overall quality of life for Minnesotans who have disabilities. For example, *[Insert examples of impact that stand out to you]*.

Eliminating this funding would put a halt to the critical work we have been providing for many years. To stop now, when there is so much more to do, would be taking a step backwards for the state; the needs of people with disabilities are, unfortunately, only going to be greater once we get to the other side of the pandemic.

I welcome the opportunity to engage with you in discussion about our work, answer any questions, or provide additional information

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

[Insert your signature and contact information here]

If you need help writing the letter or finding your representative, please reach out to your RQC's manager. Thank you to the Regional Quality Councils, The Arc Minnesota staff, and our community supporters for your ongoing advocacy on behalf of our work!

Technology Needs Assessment

The Regional Quality Councils and The Arc Minnesota have developed a needs assessment to identify barriers to accessing and navigating technology for people with disabilities in Minnesota. The information we collect will help us identify and develop resources and trainings related to technology rights and access for Minnesotans with disabilities and those who support them.

The technology survey can be completed through Survey Monkey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8G5PMNZ>

You can also complete the technology survey over the phone with a RQC staff or volunteer.

Paper versions of the technology survey can be mailed to participants if requested and are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali.

The technology surveys will close Wednesday, March 31st 2021. Participants who finish the survey will be put in a drawing to win a \$25 Visa gift card.

Please reach out to the RQC managers if you have any questions or need assistance:

- Metro RQC: Angie Guenther – AngieGuenther@arcminnesota.org or **952.915.3669**
- Region 10 RQC: Kerri Leucuta – KerriLeucuta@arcminnesota.org or **507.513.7615**
- Arrowhead RQC: Lori Moench – LMoench@arcnorthland.org or **218.726.4746**

Regional Quality Councils

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