

Individualized Funding

The Issue:

Individualized Funding (IF) cannot be fully utilized to its maximum potential unless all government departments who provide funds to persons with a disability participate in its implementation and individuals/families have access to independent facilitators to help them develop and implement their plans.

Current status:

- Government has begun to implement IF in the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS).
- A number of other government departments also provide funds to persons with a disability (eg. Department of Education, Department of Advanced Education, Skills and Labour, Department of Children, Seniors and Social Development and the Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation).
- This is a new concept that most persons with an intellectual disability and their families have not received information about.
- This is a new direction for staff who are implementing the program and have not yet received the necessary training to deliver it and work with the families to help them understand how IF will help them.
- A limited number of persons with an intellectual disability and their families are participating in the project.
- Many of those participating are not looking for more, but would like a different way of doing things that will provide better support for persons with an intellectual disability.
- The current status is confusing to those who have been chosen to be cohort families to demonstrate how this can work.

Conclusion:

- Individualized Funding (IF) represents a significant tool through which to advance the goals and values of the UN Convention and the needs and aspirations of persons with an intellectual disability, by providing them with more choice and control over their supports and services.
- Government's move toward the implementation of IF in HCS is a very positive move.
- Other government departments need to come onboard with HCS to complete this program.
- Individuals and families need assistance to develop plans and navigate the system if they are to get the best use out of IF.
- Individuals with an intellectual disability need to be able to access Supported Decision Making to get the most benefit out of IF.
- There needs to be a capacity under IF to enable individuals or families to collaborate on plans that would allow people to live in their homes when primary caregivers are no longer able to support them.
- Inclusion Canada NL (ICNL, formerly known as NLACL) is interested in seeing it continue and grow to its maximum potential and is committed to working in partnership with government to achieve this.

Recommendations:

- ICNL shall offer to work collaboratively with government to help develop IF into the best program possible to achieve the goals and principles identified.
- ICNL shall advocate for its expansion to other government departments who provide funding to individuals with disabilities.
- ICNL shall work with government to find a way to establish an independent facilitation service to demonstrate the potential of this service to IF.

Contact Information:

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