



For Immediate Release

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ARRA FUNDS INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAMS *California Department of Rehabilitation awards \$1.5 million in statewide grants*

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the California State Independent Living Council today announced \$1,523,078 in awards funded by President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to Independent Living Centers for statewide benefit.

“This is an example of ARRA funding directly benefiting Californians and California communities,” stated Tony Sauer, Director of the Department of Rehabilitation.

“These funds will also enable individuals to function in their communities and become employed,” commented Liz Pazdral, Executive Director of the California State Independent Living Council.

These Rehabilitation Act Title VIIB grants will benefit: transition aged youth (18-25) with disabilities, Native Americans with disabilities, individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury with an emphasis on veterans, and individuals who will benefit from community living options and consumer-directed services as outlined in the Olmstead Decision of 1999. The target populations for these grants are in accordance with the 2008-2010 State Plan for Independent Living, which the DOR and the State Independent Living Council jointly developed.

The Department of Rehabilitation solicited statewide stakeholder input on the needs of the independent living community and developed requests for applications. The following are the project grants and amounts, the award recipients, and the project descriptions by county. All grants have statewide influence though funds were awarded to local independent living center organizations.

SONOMA COUNTY

The Native American Indian Services Expansion ARRA Grant – \$162,307:

Award Recipient: Disability Services & Legal Center, Santa Rosa

Description: To develop a comprehensive strategic plan to promote inclusion and increase independent living services to Native Americans with disabilities.

MONTEREY COUNTY

The Traumatic Brain Injury-Veterans Services Expansion ARRA Grant – \$486,923:

Award Recipient: Central Coast Center for Independent Living, Salinas

Description: To increase independent living service capacity and coordinate existing services and programs for veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and other TBI survivors.

SACRAMENTO AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES

The Youth Outreach and Transition ARRA Grant – \$324,615:

Award Recipients: California Foundation for Independent Living Center, Sacramento
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose (jointly awarded)

Description: To develop and enhance youth outreach and transition programs.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

The Olmstead Peer Mentoring ARRA Grant – \$150,000:

Award Recipient: Silicon Valley Independent Living Center, San Jose

Description: To establish and demonstrate a peer mentoring and transition program supporting the mandate of the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead Decision by promoting access to community living options for persons with disabilities who are diverted from entering, or transitioning from an institution.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

The Olmstead Public Policy ARRA Grant – \$150,000:

Award Recipient: California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Sacramento

Description: To implement a comprehensive plan to support the mandate of the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead Decision and promote transition to community living for people with disabilities.

SACRAMENTO AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The Olmstead Training and Technical Assistance ARRA Grant – \$249,233:

Award Recipient: California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Sacramento
Westside Center for Independent Living, Los Angeles (jointly awarded)

Description: To implement a comprehensive plan supporting the mandate of the 1999 Supreme Court Olmstead Decision and to promote diversion and/or transition from institutions to community living for people with disabilities. Additionally, a Transition Fund of \$100,000 will be used to directly assist in the diversion from entering or transitioning from an institution. California Foundation for Independent Living Centers and Westside Center for Independent Living can access funds up to \$3,000 per individual for needs such as moving expenses and/or household necessities.

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