



Services To Enhance Potential

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**TO: The Stakeholders
Services To Enhance Potential**

FROM: Jim Grice, President & CEO

RE.: The Impact of Funding Reductions Upon Services

Our organization, as many other service providers, are experiencing funding reductions from various sources in the mental health system ranging from 10% to 30% and the potential for greater than 30%. These reductions are expected to be with us into the foreseeable future.

STEP will continue its quality services in these most difficult circumstances because of the sacrifices of many. These sacrifices include the thirty staff we have had to layoff and the support provided by many of you. We have made and will continue to make as many expense reductions as possible in administrative and support, building and vehicle, payments to outside contractors, and in similar areas, to resolve this over \$1 Million cut.

Unfortunately the unavoidable consequences of these funding reductions forced upon us will still require some service modifications including higher Supports Coordination ratios, fewer opportunities for community participation, longer time to achieve integrated employment and/or self-employment and micro-enterprise development, slowing the development of new business relationships to benefit the employment and income opportunities for individuals across our organization. All of these service modifications will delay opportunities for those we serve as well as require higher staff ratios across all of our services, while continuing to prioritize a safe environment for all individuals.

Individuals, families, stakeholders and advocates will be kept informed of these changes through their Support Coordinator and other STEP staff. Stakeholder Meetings at each of our Resource Centers will be scheduled over the coming months and updated news and information will be available on STEP's website www.stepcentral.org. Please feel free to contact me as well if you have general questions or comments.

Your support of our organization by truly being a Partner in our most important Mission, is appreciated and held as our most important asset. Together we will continue the support of your loved ones and many others across Wayne County.

Together we can make a difference. Thank you.

Jim Grice
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Our mission is to support individuals in the pursuit of their chosen goals and the achievement of personal satisfaction in their lives.