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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1754

03/11/2015 Authored by Kiel

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; providing grants for living at home programs for  
1.3 older adults; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new  
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256B.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [256B.86] GRANTS FOR LIVING AT HOME PROGRAMS FOR  
1.7 OLDER ADULTS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Contract.** The commissioner shall execute a contract with Living  
1.9 at Home Network for the distribution of grants to establish new and fund existing  
1.10 community-based living at home programs for older adults that enable older adults to live as  
1.11 independently as possible in their homes and communities. This contract shall be executed  
1.12 if Living at Home Network satisfies the requirements in subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

1.13 Subd. 2. **Funding; organizational structure of Living at Home Network.** (a)  
1.14 Living at Home Network must be governed by a board of directors, at least 75 percent  
1.15 of which must consist of representatives of programs receiving grants under this section.  
1.16 Other board members may be designated based on their interest or expertise in areas  
1.17 related to the care of older adults. Board members shall not receive compensation except  
1.18 for expenses directly related to serving on the board.

1.19 (b) Living at Home Network shall be funded at an amount equal to three times the  
1.20 amount of a grant award made to a program per grant period under subdivision 6.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Duties of Living at Home Network.** (a) Under the terms of the contract,  
1.22 Living at Home Network shall:

1.23 (1) distribute grant funds to nonprofit organizations and local units of government to  
1.24 establish new living at home programs and fund existing living at home programs;

(2) evaluate the programs on an ongoing basis to determine whether the goals of the nonprofit organization or local unit of government and the program are being met;

(3) encourage, provide, or recommend coordination and training opportunities for program staff and local board members; and

(4) serve as a liaison between the commissioner and the programs.

(b) In addition to the duties in paragraph (a), Living at Home Network may:

(1) coordinate and purchase services such as insurance on behalf of programs;

(2) charge programs an annual fee to help fund the services Living at Home Network provides to programs; and

(3) charge specific programs additional fees for specialized services Living at Home Network provides to the programs.

Subd. 4. **Grant applicants.** Nonprofit organizations and local units of government are eligible to apply for grants to establish and operate living at home programs for older adults. Grant applicants must match at least five percent of the grant funds received with funds from community sources.

Subd. 5. **Criteria for programs.** A program funded under this section must:

(1) be located in a community that demonstrates a readiness to establish a community model of care and that has formed a board of directors at least two thirds of which is comprised of citizens interested in community-based care for older adults;

(2) be established and operated by a credible, representative nonprofit organization within the community or a local unit of government;

(3) be designed by representatives of the community being served to ensure the program addresses the specific needs of community residents;

(4) provide services within one defined geographic area, have defined staffing and organizational structures, and provide for coordinated delivery of services;

(5) incorporate the basic community, organizational, and service delivery principles of the program model;

(6) provide older adults with a range of services on a sliding fee basis, as an alternative to more costly care. These services may include but are not limited to information, support services, homemaker services, counseling, training for older adult clients and family caregivers, and registered nurse-directed assessment, provision, and coordination of health and personal care services;

(7) emphasize health promotion, early intervention, and management of chronic conditions;

(8) provide services to older adults based on need and not based on ability to pay;

(9) demonstrate a team approach to coordination and management of care, ensuring that older adults, their families, and their providers work together to plan and provide services;

(10) recruit, train, and direct the use of volunteers to provide informal services and other support to older adults and their caregivers;

(11) promote joint efforts to meet the needs of older adults and to increase efficiency by establishing close ties with other key neighborhood organizations and groups, including churches, local units of government, business groups, block clubs, and other voluntary organizations;

(12) provide services without regard to the religious affiliation of the older adults served;

(13) provide assurances that community resources and funding will be coordinated and that other funding sources will be maximized, including the resources of the older adults served; and

(14) regularly evaluate program effectiveness and respond to changing community needs.

Subd. 6. **Grant awards.** Grants shall be awarded for four-year periods. The grant amount for the initial grant period shall not exceed \$80,000 per applicant. Grant amounts in subsequent grant periods shall be increased to reflect the cost of living adjustments given to recipients of Social Security over the previous four-year grant period. Subject to availability of funding, grants awarded under this section shall be renewed by Living at Home Network every four years, unless Living at Home Network determines that the grant recipient has not satisfactorily operated the program in compliance with this section and any guidelines established by Living at Home Network.

Subd. 7. **Uses of grant funds.** Grant funds may be used for both program development and the delivery of services. Grant funds must not be used for religious activities.

Subd. 8. **Reporting requirements.** Living at Home Network shall establish reporting requirements for nonprofit organizations and local units of government receiving grant funds under this section and shall, on a periodic basis, submit to the commissioner data received under this subdivision.

## Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; LIVING AT HOME GRANT PROGRAM.**

\$..... in fiscal year 2016 and \$..... in fiscal year 2017 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for a contract with Living at Home Network for grants for living at home programs for older adults under Minnesota Statutes,

- 4.1 section 256B.86. Of this amount, \$..... each fiscal year is to fund the development of new
- 4.2 living at home programs.