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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. **911**

02/07/2019 Authored by Cantrell, Zerwas, Fischer, Huot, Hamilton and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; establishing the Minnesota inclusion initiative grant
1.3 program; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 256.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[256.4772] MINNESOTA INCLUSION INITIATIVE GRANT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Grant program established.** The commissioner of human services shall
1.8 establish a grant program to encourage self-advocacy groups consisting of persons with
1.9 intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and organize projects that increase
1.10 the inclusion of persons in the community, improve community integration outcomes,
1.11 educate decision-makers and the general public about systemic barriers to inclusion, and
1.12 provide opportunities to advocate for changes that increase access to formal and informal
1.13 supports or services necessary for greater inclusion.

1.14 Subd. 2. **Administration.** The commissioner of human services, as authorized under
1.15 section 256.01, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (6), shall issue a request for proposals
1.16 to contract with a public or private entity to (1) serve as a fiscal host for the money
1.17 appropriated for the purposes described in this section, and (2) develop guidelines, criteria,
1.18 and procedures for awarding grants. The fiscal host shall establish an advisory committee
1.19 consisting of self-advocates, nonprofit advocacy organizations, and Department of Human
1.20 Services staff to review applications and award grants under this section.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Applications.** (a) Entities seeking grants under this section shall apply to the
1.22 advisory committee of the fiscal host under contract with the commissioner. The grant

applicant must include a description of the project the applicant is proposing, the amount of money sought, and a proposed budget detailing how the grant money will be spent.

(b) The advisory committee may award grants only for projects meeting the requirements of subdivision 4.

Subd. 4. **Use of grant funds.** Projects funded through the grants must have person-centered goals, call attention to issues that limit inclusion for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, address barriers to inclusion, or increase inclusion in their communities. Projects may focus on increasing inclusion by:

(1) decreasing barriers to workforce participation experienced by persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities;

(2) overcoming barriers to accessible and reliable transportation options for persons with disabilities;

(3) identifying and addressing barriers to voting experienced by persons with disabilities;

(4) advocating for increased accessible housing;

(5) working with governmental agencies or businesses on accessibility issues under the Americans with Disabilities Act;

(6) increasing collaboration between self-advocacy groups and other established organizations to effectively address identified systems issues;

(7) increasing capacity for inclusion in a community; or

(8) providing public education and awareness of the civil and human rights of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Subd. 5. **Reports.** (a) Grant recipients shall provide the advisory committee with a report on the activities funded under the grant program in a format and at a time specified by the advisory committee. The advisory committee shall require grant recipients to include in the grant recipient's report at least the information necessary for the advisory committee to meet its obligation under paragraph (b).

(b) The advisory committee shall provide the commissioner with a report synthesizing all the activities and outcomes of projects funded under the grant program in a format and at a time determined by the commissioner.

3.1 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.2 \$150,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$150,000 in fiscal year 2021 are appropriated from the
3.3 general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants under Minnesota Statutes,
3.4 section 256.4772.