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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 3133

02/26/2018 Authored by Koznick; Lillie; O'Neill; Dean, M.; Zerwas and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Reform
03/19/2018 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; establishing a grant program to provide stable housing
1.3 and support services for youth; requiring a report; appropriating money; proposing
1.4 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256K.

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

1.6 Section 1. [256K.46] STABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
1.7 VULNERABLE YOUTH.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
1.9 meanings given them:

1.10 (a) "Eligible applicant" means a program licensed by the commissioner of human services
1.11 to provide transitional housing and support services to youth. An eligible applicant must
1.12 have staff on site 24 hours per day and must have established confidentiality protocols as
1.13 required by state and federal law.

1.14 (b) "Living essentials" means clothing, toiletries, transportation, interpreters, other
1.15 supplies, and services necessary for daily living.

1.16 (c) "Support services" has the meaning given in section 256E.33, subdivision 1, paragraph
1.17 (b), and includes crisis intervention, conflict mediation, family reunification services,
1.18 educational services, and employment resources.

1.19 (d) "Transitional housing" means secure shelter and housing that:

1.20 (1) is provided at low or no cost;

1.21 (2) is designed to assist people transitioning from homelessness, family or relationship
1.22 violence, or sexual exploitation, to living independently in the community; and

2.1 (3) provides residents with regular staff interaction, supervision plans, and living skills  
2.2 training and assistance.

2.3 (e) "Vulnerable youth" means youth 13 years of age through 17 years of age who have  
2.4 reported histories of sexual exploitation or family or relationship violence. Vulnerable youth  
2.5 includes youth who are homeless and youth who are parents and their children.

2.6 Subd. 2. **Grants authorized.** The commissioner of human services shall award grants  
2.7 to eligible applicants to plan, establish, or operate programs to provide transitional housing  
2.8 and support services to vulnerable youth. An applicant may apply for and the commissioner  
2.9 may award grants for two-year periods, and the commissioner shall determine the number  
2.10 of grants awarded. The commissioner may reallocate underspending among grantees within  
2.11 the same grant period.

2.12 Subd. 3. **Commissioner required to grant variance.** For purposes of this grant program,  
2.13 the commissioner shall grant a variance allowing a program licensed to provide transitional  
2.14 housing and support services to youth 16 years of age through 17 years of age to serve youth  
2.15 13 years of age through 17 years of age.

2.16 Subd. 4. **Allocation of grants.** (a) An application must be on a form and contain  
2.17 information as specified by the commissioner but at a minimum must contain:

2.18 (1) a description of the purpose or project for which grant funds will be used;

2.19 (2) a description of the specific problem the grant funds are intended to address;

2.20 (3) a description of achievable objectives, a work plan, and a timeline for implementation  
2.21 and completion of processes or projects enabled by the grant;

2.22 (4) a description of the eligible applicant's existing frameworks and experience providing  
2.23 transitional housing and support services to vulnerable youth; and

2.24 (5) a proposed process for documenting and evaluating results of the grant.

2.25 (b) Grant funds allocated under this section may be used for purposes that include, but  
2.26 are not limited to, the following:

2.27 (1) transitional housing, meals, and living essentials for vulnerable youth and their  
2.28 children;

2.29 (2) support services;

2.30 (3) mental health and substance use disorder counseling;

2.31 (4) staff training;

3.1 (5) case management and referral services; and

3.2 (6) aftercare and follow-up services, including ongoing adult and peer support.

3.3 (c) The commissioner shall review each application to determine whether the application  
3.4 is complete and whether the applicant and the project are eligible for a grant. In evaluating  
3.5 applications, the commissioner shall establish criteria including, but not limited to:

3.6 (1) the eligibility of the applicant or project;

3.7 (2) the applicant's thoroughness and clarity in describing the problem grant funds are  
3.8 intended to address;

3.9 (3) a description of the population demographics and service area of the proposed project;  
3.10 and

3.11 (4) the proposed project's longevity and demonstrated financial sustainability after the  
3.12 initial grant period.

3.13 In evaluating applications, the commissioner may request additional information regarding  
3.14 a proposed project, including information on project cost. An applicant's failure to provide  
3.15 the information requested disqualifies an applicant.

3.16 Subd. 5. **Awarding of grants.** The commissioner must notify grantees of awards by  
3.17 December 1, 2018, and grant funds must be disbursed by January 1, 2019, and each January  
3.18 1 thereafter.

3.19 Sec. 2. **REPORT TO LEGISLATURE.**

3.20 By December 1, 2020, the commissioner of human services shall deliver a report to the  
3.21 chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over  
3.22 vulnerable youth on the outcomes of the projects funded under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.23 256K.46. The report shall, at a minimum, include the amount of funding awarded for each  
3.24 project, a description of the programs and services funded, plans for the long-term  
3.25 sustainability of the projects, and data on outcomes for the programs and services funded.  
3.26 Grantees must provide information and data requested by the commissioner to support the  
3.27 development of this report.

3.28 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.29 \$..... in fiscal year 2019 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
3.30 human services to administer the grant program described in Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.31 256K.46.