

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3232

(SENATE AUTHORS: OUMOU VERBETEN)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
04/02/2025	1278	Introduction and first reading Referred to Health and Human Services

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to human services; establishing a Minnesota financial opportunity grant

1.3pilot program; requiring a report; appropriating money.

1.4BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5Section 1. **MINNESOTA FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.**

1.6Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of human services must establish a

1.7direct cash assistance grant pilot program to provide regular and predictable financial support

1.8to eligible Minnesota residents to promote economic stability, workforce participation, and

1.9community investment and to support a recipient's basic needs.

1.10Subd. 2. **Eligible grantees.** An eligible grantee must be able to provide monthly payments

1.11to eligible recipients and be a local government entity, Tribal government, or nonprofit

1.12organization with a demonstrated track record in community development and economic

1.13assistance.

1.14Subd. 3. **Applications.** An application for a financial opportunity grant must include:

1.15(1) an initial program design and proposal meeting the requirements of subdivisions 4

1.16and 6;

1.17(2) a plan to identify eligible recipients the applicant intends to serve under this section;

1.18(3) a rationale for identifying the specific eligible recipients;

1.19(4) a plan for involving impacted community members in the design of the program;

1.20(5) a commitment to participate in the financial opportunity community of practice under

1.21subdivision 7;

2.1 (6) a commitment to cooperate with an evaluator selected by the commissioner; and

2.2 (7) a plan for collecting the data required in the report under subdivision 8.

2.3 Subd. 4. **Grant activities.** Grantees must use the grant money to:

2.4 (1) design and implement a financial opportunity disbursement program based on the
2.5 needs of the impacted community that meets the requirements of this section;

2.6 (2) provide a monthly payment of at least \$500 each month to eligible recipients under
2.7 this section for a period of at least 18 months; and

2.8 (3) collect the information required for the report under subdivision 8.

2.9 Subd. 5. **Stipends not to be considered income.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the
2.10 contrary, cash stipends under this section must not be considered income, assets, or personal
2.11 property for purposes of determining eligibility or recertifying eligibility for:

2.12 (1) child care assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 142E;

2.13 (2) food support under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 142F;

2.14 (3) the Minnesota family investment program and diversionary work program under
2.15 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 142G;

2.16 (4) general assistance and Minnesota supplemental aid under Minnesota Statutes, chapter
2.17 256D;

2.18 (5) housing support under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256I; and

2.19 (6) economic assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256P.

2.20 (b) The commissioner must not consider cash stipends under this section as income or
2.21 assets for medical assistance under Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.056, subdivision 1a,
2.22 paragraph (a); 3; or 3c.

2.23 Subd. 6. **Eligible recipients.** (a) To be eligible to receive monthly payments under this
2.24 section, a recipient must attest to the recipient's need and must be receiving public benefits
2.25 or have a household income less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty
2.26 guidelines. Once enrolled, recipients must not be required to recertify.

2.27 (b) An eligible recipient may be an individual or a family.

2.28 (c) Grantees may identify priority populations, including but not limited to families;
2.29 individuals or youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness; individuals with low income
2.30 wanting to acquire more training, job skills, or education; or individuals and families who
2.31 have recently relocated to Minnesota from other states or countries.

3.1 Subd. 7. **Financial opportunity community of practice.** (a) The commissioner must
3.2 establish a financial opportunity community of practice to provide regular training and
3.3 technical assistance to grantees.

3.4 (b) The commissioner must identify at least one independent entity to lead the financial
3.5 opportunity community of practice under this subdivision and to provide training and
3.6 technical assistance to grantees.

3.7 Subd. 8. **Reporting.** (a) Each grantee must collect data from its recipients before and
3.8 after participation in the program on the following:

3.9 (1) economic status;

3.10 (2) employment status;

3.11 (3) status of physical and mental health;

3.12 (4) status of food and housing security;

3.13 (5) ability to enroll in further education due to participation in the program; and

3.14 (6) any other relevant information identified by the grantee.

3.15 (b) Grantees must provide an annual report to the commissioner on the data collected
3.16 under paragraph (a) in a manner prescribed by the commissioner.

3.17 Subd. 9. **Evaluator.** The commissioner must identify at least one independent,
3.18 research-based entity to evaluate the program under this section.

3.19 Subd. 10. **Report.** The commissioner, in cooperation with grantees under this section,
3.20 must submit a final report on findings regarding the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the
3.21 Minnesota financial opportunity grant pilot program to the chairs and ranking minority
3.22 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services by January
3.23 15, 2028. The report must maintain the anonymity of individuals who participate in the
3.24 program.

3.25 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT**
3.26 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

3.27 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.28 of human services for the Minnesota financial opportunity grant pilot program. This is a
3.29 onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028.

3.30 (b) Of the amount appropriated in paragraph (a), the commissioner of human services
3.31 may use up to \$..... for outreach, technical assistance, training, and evaluation.