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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1698

02/13/2023 Authored by Howard and Kotyza-Witthuhn The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Children and Families Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to child care; establishing a family, friend, and neighbor child care grant
1.3 program; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law
1.4 in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B.

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

1.6 Section 1. [119B.196] FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR GRANT PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of human services shall establish a
1.8 family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) grant program to promote children's social-emotional
1.9 learning and healthy development, early literacy, and other skills to succeed as learners and
1.10 to foster community partnerships that will help children thrive when they enter school.

1.11 Subd. 2. Grant awards. The commissioner may award grants under this section to the
1.12 following entities working with FFN caregivers: community-based organizations, nonprofit
1.13 organizations, local or regional libraries, local public health agencies, and Indian Tribes
1.14 and Tribal organizations. Grantees may use grant money received under this section to:

1.15 (1) provide culturally and linguistically appropriate training, support, and resources to
1.16 FFN caregivers and children's families to improve and promote children's health, safety,
1.17 nutrition, and learning;

1.18 (2) connect FFN caregivers and children's families with community resources that support
1.19 the families' physical and mental health and economic and developmental needs;

1.20 (3) connect FFN caregivers and children's families to early childhood screening programs
1.21 and facilitate referrals to state and local agencies, schools, community organizations, and
1.22 medical providers, as appropriate;

2.1 (4) provide FFN caregivers and children's families with information about high-quality,
2.2 community-based early care and learning programs and financial assistance available to the
2.3 families, including but not limited to child care assistance under chapter 119B and early
2.4 learning scholarships under section 124D.165;

2.5 (5) provide FFN caregivers with information about registering as a legal nonlicensed
2.6 child care provider under section 119B.011, subdivision 16, and establishing a licensed
2.7 family or group family child care program;

2.8 (6) provide transportation for FFN caregivers and children's families to educational and
2.9 other early childhood training activities;

2.10 (7) translate materials for FFN caregivers and children's families and provide translation
2.11 services to FFN caregivers and children's families;

2.12 (8) develop and disseminate social-emotional learning, health and safety, and early
2.13 learning kits to FFN caregivers; and

2.14 (9) establish play and learning groups for FFN caregivers.

2.15 Subd. 3. **Administration.** Applicants must apply for the grants using the forms and
2.16 according to timelines established by the commissioner.

2.17 Subd. 4. **Reporting requirements.** (a) Grantees shall provide data and program outcomes
2.18 to the commissioner in a form and manner specified by the commissioner for the purpose
2.19 of evaluating the grant program.

2.20 (b) Beginning February 1, 2024, and every two years thereafter, the commissioner shall
2.21 report to the legislature on program outcomes.

2.22 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATIONS; FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR GRANT**
2.23 **PROGRAM.**

2.24 \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from
2.25 the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the family, friend, and neighbor
2.26 grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 119B.196.