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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4628

03/28/2022 Authored by Davnie, Noor, Lee and Boldon

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money from the coronavirus capital  
1.3 projects fund for grants for digital connectivity technology projects and  
1.4 multipurpose community facilities.

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

1.6 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; FEDERAL FUNDS FOR DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY  
1.7 TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS AND MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITIES.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
1.9 the meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of management and budget.

1.11 (c) "Critical need" means a lack of access to the resources or services provided by a  
1.12 capital project eligible for a grant under this section, whether because of the physical absence  
1.13 or insufficiency within the community of the type of resources provided by the capital  
1.14 project or because access to those resources is unaffordable.

1.15 (d) "Device" means technology which can access broadband Internet and allow a user  
1.16 to interact with other persons and programs and includes but is not limited to a laptop  
1.17 computer, tablet, or desktop personal computer.

1.18 (e) "Employer" means a local government, nonprofit organization, or private entity.

1.19 (f) "Equipment" means equipment installed as a part of Wi-Fi infrastructure and includes  
1.20 but is not limited to access points, repeaters, and routers.

1.21 (g) "Local government" means a county, statutory or home rule charter city, town, or  
1.22 any other political subdivision.

2.1 (h) "Multipurpose community facility" means a building that is designed to jointly and  
 2.2 directly enable work, education, and health monitoring by members of the public. This  
 2.3 includes but is not limited to full-service community schools that provide academic  
 2.4 programming to students and adult education in the community at large, health monitoring  
 2.5 to students and the community, and workforce training or career counseling services to  
 2.6 community members; libraries that provide public access to the Internet, including for work,  
 2.7 education, and health monitoring; and community health centers that engage in health  
 2.8 monitoring in addition to a broad range of community services.

2.9 (i) "Nonprofit organization" means a not-for-profit corporation under section 501(c)(3)  
 2.10 of the Internal Revenue Code.

2.11 (j) "Private entity" means any person, private group, organization, proprietorship,  
 2.12 partnership, trust, cooperative, corporation, or other commercial or nonprofit entity.

2.13 (k) "Strong labor practices" means labor practices by an employer including but not  
 2.14 limited to:

2.15 (1) implementing project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that  
 2.16 offer wages at or above the prevailing rate;

2.17 (2) hiring local workers or workers from underserved communities;

2.18 (3) ensuring the employer's workforce meets high safety and training standards, including  
 2.19 professional certification, licensure, robust in-house training, or a combination of these  
 2.20 standards;

2.21 (4) directly employing workers, or having policies and practices in place to ensure  
 2.22 contractors and subcontractors meet high labor standards; and

2.23 (5) demonstrating no violations of federal and state labor and employment laws within  
 2.24 the past three years.

2.25 (l) "Underserved community" has the meaning given under Minnesota Statutes, section  
 2.26 116J.9924, subdivision 1, paragraph (g).

2.27 Subd. 2. **Appropriation.** (a) \$110,703,000 is appropriated from the coronavirus capital  
 2.28 projects fund in the state treasury to the commissioner for the purposes described in this  
 2.29 subdivision.

2.30 (b) \$40,000,000 of this appropriation is for grants to local governments, nonprofit  
 2.31 organizations, and private entities to purchase, install, or purchase and install devices and  
 2.32 equipment to facilitate broadband Internet access to permit users of such devices and

3.1 equipment to fully participate in work, school, and health monitoring. A device or equipment  
3.2 purchased, installed, or purchased and installed with a grant under this paragraph must:

3.3 (1) be made available to members of the public through short- or long-term loan programs  
3.4 or for use in public facilities; and

3.5 (2) be owned by the grantee for at least five years.

3.6 (c) \$70,703,000 of this appropriation is for grants to local governments, nonprofit  
3.7 organizations, and private entities to construct or improve multipurpose community facilities  
3.8 that jointly and directly enable work, education, and health monitoring by members of the  
3.9 public. A grantee under this paragraph must provide a written commitment to the  
3.10 commissioner that the multipurpose community facility will provide services that enable  
3.11 work, education, and health monitoring by members of the public for at least five years  
3.12 from completion of the construction or improvement of the facility.

3.13 Subd. 3. **Prioritization criteria.** (a) The commissioner shall prioritize a grant under this  
3.14 section for a project that:

3.15 (1) is designed to address a critical need of an underserved community and is consistent  
3.16 with the policies of Presidential Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021; and

3.17 (2) incorporates strong labor practices in construction.

3.18 (b) The commissioner shall consider the following information to determine communities  
3.19 with a critical need:

3.20 (1) any data available from the federal or state government that indicates the existing  
3.21 capacity, service quality, and ability to meet any relevant health, safety, or performance  
3.22 standards in the area where a capital project eligible for a grant under this section would be  
3.23 located;

3.24 (2) interviews with community members and business owners;

3.25 (3) reports from community organizations;

3.26 (4) documentation of existing facilities that provide similar or identical services to those  
3.27 that the project is intended to provide; and

3.28 (5) any other information the commissioner deems relevant.

3.29 Subd. 4. **Unexpended money.** Any money granted under this section that is not expended  
3.30 by a grantee on or before December 1, 2026, must be returned to the commissioner for  
3.31 deposit in the coronavirus capital projects fund in the state treasury at the time and in the  
3.32 form and manner as the commissioner prescribes.

4.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.