

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 2083

(SENATE AUTHORS: RELPH and Mathews)

DATE
03/13/2017

D-PG
1370

OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Jobs and Economic Growth Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to community development; establishing a central Minnesota opportunity
1.3 grant program; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for new
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116J.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[116J.9922] CENTRAL MINNESOTA OPPORTUNITY GRANT**
1.7 **PROGRAM.**

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 employment and economic development.

1.11 (c) "Community initiative" means a nonprofit organization which provides services to
1.12 central Minnesota communities of color in one or more of the program areas listed in
1.13 subdivision 4, paragraph (a).

1.14 (d) "Foundation" means the Central Minnesota Community Foundation.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** The commissioner shall establish a central Minnesota
1.16 opportunity grant program, administered by the foundation, to identify and support
1.17 community initiatives in the St. Cloud area that enhance long-term economic self-sufficiency
1.18 by improving education, housing, and economic outcomes for central Minnesota communities
1.19 of color.

1.20 Subd. 3. **Grant to the Central Minnesota Community Foundation.** The commissioner
1.21 shall award all grant funds to the foundation, which shall administer the central Minnesota

2.1 opportunity grant program. The foundation may use up to five percent of grant funds for
2.2 administrative costs.

2.3 Subd. 4. **Grants to community initiatives.** (a) The foundation must award funds through
2.4 a competitive grant process to community initiatives that will provide services, either alone
2.5 or in partnership with another nonprofit organization, in one or more of the following areas:

2.6 (1) economic development, including but not limited to programs to foster
2.7 entrepreneurship or small business development;

2.8 (2) education, including but not limited to programs to encourage civic engagement or
2.9 provide youth after-school or recreation programs; or

2.10 (3) housing, including but not limited to, programs to prevent and respond to
2.11 homelessness or to provide access to loans or grants for housing stability and affordability.

2.12 (b) To receive grant funds, a community initiative must submit a written application to
2.13 the foundation, using a form developed by the foundation. This grant application must
2.14 include:

2.15 (1) a description of the activities that will be funded by the grant;

2.16 (2) an estimate of the cost of each grant activity;

2.17 (3) the total cost of the project;

2.18 (4) the sources and amounts of nonstate funds supplementing the grant;

2.19 (5) how the project aims to achieve stated outcomes in areas including improved job
2.20 training; workforce development; small business support; early childhood, kindergarten
2.21 through grade 12, and higher education achievement; and access to housing, including loans;
2.22 and

2.23 (6) any additional information requested by the foundation.

2.24 (c) In awarding grants under this subdivision, the foundation shall give weight to
2.25 applications from organizations that demonstrate:

2.26 (1) a history of successful provision of the services listed in paragraph (a); and

2.27 (2) a history of successful fund-raising from private sources for such services.

2.28 (d) In evaluating grant applications, the foundation shall not consider the composition
2.29 of a community initiative's governing board.

2.30 (e) Grant funds may be used by a community initiative for the following purposes:

3.1 (1) operating costs, including but not limited to staff, office space, computers, software,
3.2 and Web development and maintenance services;

3.3 (2) program costs;

3.4 (3) travel within Minnesota;

3.5 (4) consultants directly related to and necessary for delivering services listed in paragraph
3.6 (a); and

3.7 (5) capacity building.

3.8 Subd. 5. **Reports to the legislature.** By January 15, 2019, and each January 15 thereafter
3.9 through 2022, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority
3.10 members of the house of representatives and the senate committees with jurisdiction over
3.11 economic development that details the use of grant funds. This report must include data on
3.12 the number of individuals served and, to the extent practical, measures of progress toward
3.13 achieving the outcomes stated in subdivision 4, paragraph (b), clause (5).

3.14 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.15 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from
3.16 the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the
3.17 central Minnesota opportunity grant program established under Minnesota Statutes, section
3.18 116J.9922. These appropriations are available until June 30, 2022. Starting in fiscal year
3.19 2022, the base funding for this program shall be \$0.