Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 44. Homelessness and Housing Support Office. (a) The Homelessness and Housing Support Office is established in the Department of Human Services. The office shall be under the supervision of an assistant commissioner appointed by the commissioner.

(b) The commissioner, working with the assistant commissioner for homelessness and housing support, shall:

(1) administer the following programs:

(i) housing stabilization services under section 256B.051, subdivision 7;
(ii) general assistance under sections 256D.01 to 256D.17;
(iii) Minnesota supplemental aid under sections 256D.33 to 256D.54;
(iv) the transitional housing program under section 256E.33;
(v) the emergency services program under section 256E.36;
(vi) the emergency solutions grant;
(vii) bridging benefits;
(viii) the housing support program under chapter 256E;
(ix) community living infrastructure grants under section 256I.09;
(x) long-term homeless supportive services under section 256K.26;
(xi) the Homeless Youth Act under section 256K.45;
(xii) the shelter-linked youth mental health grant program under section 256K.46;
(xiii) safe harbor shelter and housing under section 256K.47;
(xiv) emergency shelter facilities grants under Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 11, section 14; and
(xv) the homeless youth cash stipend pilot project under Laws 2023, chapter 70, article 11, section 13;

(2) coordinate with the Interagency Council on Homelessness;
(3) make recommendations to the legislature on improving access to homeless services and supportive housing, improving service delivery, and improving the effectiveness of the state's homeless and supportive housing system;

(4) engage with other state agencies, counties, Tribes, advocacy organizations, and other stakeholders on issues related to homelessness in Minnesota; and

(5) perform other duties related to the provision of services to people experiencing homelessness in the state.

(c) By January 15 of each year, the assistant commissioner must submit an annual report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services policy and finance detailing the activities of the office and making recommendations for system improvements, including any necessary draft legislation.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

Section 1. FREE COMMUNICATION SERVICES.

Subdivision 1. Free communication services. (a) A facility must provide patients and clients with voice communication services. A facility may supplement voice communication...
services with other communication services, including but not limited to video
communication and email or electronic messaging services. A facility must continue to
offer the services the facility offered as of January 1, 2024.

(b) To the extent that voice or other communication services are provided, which must
not be limited beyond program participation and routine facility policies and procedures,
neither the individual initiating the communication nor the individual receiving the
communication must be charged for the service.

Subd. 2. Communication services restrictions. Nothing in this section allows a patient
or client to violate an active protection order, harassment restraining order, or other no-contact
order or directive. Nothing in this section entitles a civilly committed person to
communication services restricted or limited under Minnesota Statutes, section 253B.03,
subdivision 3, or 253D.19.

Subd. 3. Revenue prohibited. Direct Care and Treatment must not receive revenue
from the provision of voice communication services or any other communication services
under this section.

Subd. 4. Visitation programs. (a) Facilities shall maintain in-person visits for patients
or clients. Communication services, including video calls, must not be used to replace a
facility's in-person visitation program or be counted toward a patient's or client's in-person
visitation limit.

(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the Direct Care and Treatment executive board may
waive the in-person visitation program requirement under this subdivision if there is:
(1) a declared emergency under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.31; or
(2) a local-, state-, or federal-declared natural disaster.

Subd. 5. Reporting. (a) By January 15, 2027, the Direct Care and Treatment executive
board must report the information described in paragraph (b) to the commissioner of
corrections. By March 15, 2027, the commissioner of corrections must submit a summary
of the information submitted under this paragraph to the chairs and ranking minority members
of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over corrections and human services policy
and finance.

(b) The Direct Care and Treatment executive board must include the following
information covering fiscal year 2025 in its annual report to the commissioner of corrections
required under paragraph (a):
(1) the status of all the agency's communication contracts; efforts to renegotiate the
agency's communication contracts, including the rates the agency is paying or charging
confined people or community members for any and all services in the contracts; and plans
to consolidate the agency's communication contracts to maximize purchasing power;
Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

(b) "Community-based organization" means a public or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated effectiveness that is representative of a community or significant segments of a community and provides educational or related services to individuals in the community.

(c) "Community care hub" means a nonprofit organization that provides a centralized administrative and operational interface between health care institutions and a network of community-based organizations that provide health promotion and social care services.

(d) "Health-related social needs" means the individual-level, adverse social conditions that can negatively impact a person's health or health care, such as poor health literacy, food insecurity, housing instability, and lack of access to transportation.

(e) "Social care services" means culturally informed services to address health-related social needs and community-informed health promotion programs.
Subd. 3. Eligible applicants. To be eligible for the single grant available under this section, a grant applicant must:

(1) be recognized as a selected community care hub by the federal Administration for Community Living and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(2) hold contracts with health plans within Minnesota that allow the applicant to provide social care services to a plan’s covered member population; and

(3) demonstrate active engagement in providing, coordinating, and aiding health care and social care services at the community level.

Subd. 4. Eligible uses. The grantee must use awarded funding to develop and design programs that support the development of a social care network that provides services to address health-related social needs. Activities eligible for funding under this section include but are not limited to education activities, feasibility studies, program design, and pilots.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; WAIVER TO NURSE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS. The commissioner of health must submit a request for a waiver to the requirement that nursing homes have a registered nurse on site 24 hours per day.
under section 1115 of the Social Security Act, other federal waivers, or existing state
authority.
(b) The commissioner shall collaborate with the commissioner of health and community
and other external partners providing services in nutrition, housing, case management, and
violence prevention to medical assistance recipients on specific interventions to include in
the proposed strategy.
(c) By March 1, 2025, the commissioner shall provide the strategy developed under this
section to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with
jurisdiction over health care finance and must include:
(1) a proposed timeline for implementation;
(2) an estimate of the administrative and programmatic costs associated with
implementing and evaluating any proposed federal waivers; and
(3) any statutory changes necessary to seek ongoing state funding and federal authority
for the proposed strategies.
(d) The commissioner may perform the steps necessary to develop a federal waiver or
other strategies identified in paragraph (c) in preparation for enactment of the strategies.
(e) The commissioner is exempt from the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter
16C, When entering into a new contract or amending an existing contract to complete the
work under this section.
EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
Sec. 5. DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER; STUDY OF NAVIGATOR
REIMBURSEMENT.
(a) The commissioner of human services, in collaboration with the board of directors of
MNsure, shall conduct an analysis of the navigator and in-person assister programs in
Minnesota Statutes, section 62V.05, subdivision 4. The analysis must consider the incentive
program in Minnesota Statutes, section 256.962, subdivision 5, including examining
reimbursement levels and methodologies used in other states and recommending a sustainable
source of funding for the navigator program. The analysis must also include consultation
with individual navigators and navigator organizations.
(b) By October 1, 2025, the commissioner shall submit the analysis under this section
and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative
committees with jurisdiction over human services and health care finance.
Sec. 6. WORKING GROUP ON SIMPLIFYING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING RESOURCES.

Subd. 1. Establishment. A working group on simplifying supportive housing resources is established to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded supportive housing resources for people experiencing homelessness.

Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The working group must prioritize membership from individuals and organizations that use or administer state-funded supportive housing resources and must include the following:

(1) the commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency or designee;
(2) the commissioner of human services or designee;
(3) two representatives from the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless;
(4) eight representatives from organizations providing services to people experiencing homelessness, including organizations that provide services to youth experiencing homelessness and populations that disproportionately experience homelessness, and a coordinated entry provider;
(5) one representative with lived experience of homelessness;
(6) one representative from the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative;
(7) one representative from Hennepin County;
(8) one representative from St. Louis County;
(9) two members from the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the minority leader; and
(10) two members from the senate appointed by the senate committee on committees, one representing the majority caucus and one representing the minority caucus.

(b) The members listed in paragraph (a), clauses (3) to (8), must be appointed by the commissioner of human services.

(c) All appointing authorities must make their appointments to the working group by August 1, 2024.

Subd. 3. Duties. (a) The working group must study supportive housing resources to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded supportive housing resources for people experiencing homelessness, including the following programs:

(1) the housing support program;
(2) long-term homeless supportive services;
(3) housing with supports for adults with serious mental illness;
(4) the housing trust fund; and
(5) other capital and operating funds administered by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

(b) In studying supportive housing resources, the working group must identify the processes, procedures, and technological or personal resources that would be necessary to enable the state, county or Tribal agencies, and providers responsible for administering public supportive housing funds to meet the following goals:

1. reduce administrative complexities;
2. enhance equity and accessibility, including coordinated entry;
3. streamline and simplify eligibility criteria, paperwork, and funding distribution; and
4. accelerate the transition of individuals from homelessness to sustainable long-term solutions.

Subd. 4. Compensation. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3, members of the working group shall not be compensated, except for the member with lived experience of homelessness.

Subd. 5. Meetings; facilitation. (a) The commissioner of human services may contract with a third-party vendor to facilitate the working group and convene the first meeting by January 15, 2025.
(b) The working group must meet at regular intervals as often as necessary to fulfill the duties under subdivision 3.
(c) Meetings of the working group are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

Subd. 6. Consultation. The working group must consult with other individuals and organizations that have expertise and experience in providing supportive services that may assist the working group in fulfilling its responsibilities, including entities engaging in additional external stakeholder input from those with lived experience of homelessness and administrators of state-funded supportive housing not included on the working group.

Subd. 7. Report required. The working group shall submit a final report by January 15, 2026, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over housing and homelessness finance and policy detailing the recommendations to streamline access, eligibility, and administration of state-funded supportive housing resources for people experiencing homelessness. The report shall include draft legislation required to implement the proposed legislation.
Subd. 8. Expiration. The working group expires January 15, 2026.

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

Sec. 7. REVISOR INSTRUCTION.

The revisor of statutes shall renumber each section of Minnesota Statutes listed in column A with the number listed in column B. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference changes consistent with the renumbering:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>256E.33</td>
<td>256K.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>256E.36</td>
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