

## CHAPTER 268

## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

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**268.014 COOPERATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES.**

To effectively coordinate job training and placement services with future job needs of the state the commissioner shall maintain close liaison, coordination and cooperation with the commissioner of energy, planning and development and any other state agency involved in employment issues affecting the state.

**History:** 1981 c 356 s 186

**268.15 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND.**

*[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1980]*

Subd. 4. *[Repealed, 2Sp1981-c 1 s 8]*

**268.34 EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS WITH GOVERNMENTAL SUBDIVISIONS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

The commissioner is authorized to enter into arrangements with existing public and private nonprofit organizations and agencies with experience in administering summer youth employment programs for the purpose of providing employment opportunities in furtherance of sections 268.31 to 268.36 and to advance up to 20 percent of a summer youth employment contract to any participating organization or agency. The commissioner shall enter into these agreements with organizations designated by the prime sponsors authorized under the comprehensive employment and training act (CETA). The department of economic security shall retain ultimate responsibility for the administration of this employment program, including but not limited to, approval of summer job opportunities, review of applicants therefor, placement of youth in jobs subject to the approval of prime sponsors and the disbursement of funds. Any administrative costs, with the exception of worker's compensation, incurred by any nonprofit organization or any governmental agency with which an arrangement has been made by the department of economic security shall not be paid from appropriated funds available for the purposes of sections 268.31 to 268.36.

**History:** 1981 c 82 s 1

**268.52 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Authorization.** The commissioner of economic security may provide financial assistance for community action agencies to carry out community action programs as described in section 268.54 in accordance with state and federal law and regulation.

Subd. 2. **Allocation of funds among community action agencies.** Funds appropriated for the purpose of subdivision 1 shall be allocated annually to community action agencies under either clause (a) or (b), whichever is more advantageous to the agency.

If the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund each agency, the insufficiency shall be prorated annually among the agencies.

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(a) In proportion to the size of the poverty level population served by the agency when compared to the size of the poverty level population in the state; or

(b) Determined as follows:

If the appropriation of funds for community action agencies shall be equal to or more than that available in fiscal years 1979 and 1980, there shall be in place a "hold-harmless" provision for the allocation of funds among community action agencies. For purposes of Laws 1981, Chapter 367, "hold-harmless" shall be defined as the amount of funding received by a community action agency under the Economic Opportunity Grant Program in the previous fiscal year.

**Subd. 3. Reports.** Each community action agency receiving funds under this section shall report annually to the commissioner concerning the use of the funds.

**Subd. 4. Definition.** For the purposes of sections 268.52 to 268.54, "poverty level population" means the number of people whose household income is below the poverty line established by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**History:** 1981 c 367 s 2

## 268.53 COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES.

**Subdivision 1. In general.** A community action agency is a political subdivision of the state, a combination of political subdivisions, a public agency, or a private nonprofit agency which has the authority under its applicable charter or laws to receive funds under section 268.52 to support community action programs as described in section 268.54 and which is designated as a community action agency by federal law, federal regulations, or the governor.

**Subd. 2. Governing board.** Each community action agency shall administer its community action programs through a community action board consisting of 15 to 51 members.

(a) One-third of the members of the board shall be elected public officials, currently holding office, or their representatives.

(b) At least one-third of the members shall be persons chosen in accordance with democratic selection procedures adequate to assure that they are representative of the poor in the area served.

(c) The other members shall be officials or members of business, industry, labor, religious, welfare, education, or other major groups and interests in the community. Each member of the board selected to represent a specific geographic area within a community must reside in the area represented.

(d) No person selected under clause (b) or (c) shall serve for more than five consecutive years or more than a total of ten years.

**Subd. 3. Delegation of powers.** If a community action agency places responsibility for major policy determinations with respect to the character, funding, extent, and administration of and budgeting for programs to be carried on in a particular geographic area within the community in a subsidiary board, council, or similar agency, that board, council, or agency shall be broadly representative of the area.

**Subd. 4. Local participation.** Each community action agency shall consult neighborhood based organizations composed of residents of the area or members of the groups served to assist the agency in the planning, conduct, and evaluation of components of the community action program.

Subd. 5. **Functions; powers.** A community action agency shall:

(a) Plan systematically for an effective community action program; develop information as to the problems and causes of poverty in the community; determine how much and how effectively assistance is being provided to deal with those problems and causes; and establish priorities among projects, activities and areas as needed for the best and most efficient use of resources;

(b) Encourage agencies engaged in activities related to the community action program to plan for, secure, and administer assistance available under section 268.52 or from other sources on a common or cooperative basis; provide planning or technical assistance to those agencies; and generally, in cooperation with community agencies and officials, undertake actions to improve existing efforts to reduce poverty, such as improving day-to-day communications, closing service gaps, focusing resources on the most needy, and providing additional opportunities to low-income individuals for regular employment or participation in the programs or activities for which those community agencies and officials are responsible;

(c) Initiate and sponsor projects responsive to needs of the poor which are not otherwise being met, with particular emphasis on providing central or common services that can be drawn upon by a variety of related programs, developing new approaches or new types of services that can be incorporated into other programs, and filling gaps pending the expansion or modification of those programs;

(d) Establish effective procedures by which the poor and area residents concerned will be enabled to influence the character of programs affecting their interests, provide for their regular participation in the implementation of those programs, and provide technical and other support needed to enable the poor and neighborhood groups to secure on their own behalf available assistance from public and private sources;

(e) Join with and encourage business, labor and other private groups and organizations to undertake, together with public officials and agencies, activities in support of the community action program which will result in the additional use of private resources and capabilities, with a view to developing new employment opportunities, stimulating investment that will have a measurable impact on reducing poverty among residents of areas of concentrated poverty, and providing methods by which residents of those areas can work with private groups, firms, and institutions in seeking solutions to problems of common concern.

**History:** 1981 c 367 s 3

## **268.54 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS.**

Subdivision 1. **In general.** A community action program is a community based and operated program which:

(a) Includes or is designed to include a sufficient number of projects or components to provide, in sum, a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community or those areas of the community where poverty is a particularly acute problem;

(b) Has been developed, and which organizes and combines its component projects and activities, in a manner appropriate to carry out all the purposes of sections 268.52 to 268.54; and

(c) Conforms to any other supplementary criteria as the governor may prescribe consistent with the purposes and provisions of sections 268.52 to 268.54.

Subd. 2. **Components.** The components of a community action program shall be designed to assist participants, including the elderly poor to:

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- (a) Secure and retain meaningful employment;
- (b) Attain an adequate education;
- (c) Make better use of available income;
- (d) Provide and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment;
- (e) Undertake family planning, consistent with personal and family goals, religious and moral convictions;
- (f) Obtain services for the prevention of narcotics addiction, alcoholism, and the rehabilitation of narcotic addicts and alcoholics;
- (g) Obtain emergency assistance through loans or grants to meet immediate and urgent individual and family needs, including the need for health services, nutritious food, housing and employment-related assistance;
- (h) Remove obstacles and solve personal and family problems which block the achievement of self-sufficiency;
- (i) Achieve greater participation in the affairs of the community; and,
- (j) Make more frequent and effective use of other programs related to the purposes of sections 268.52 to 268.54.

Subd. 3. **Administration.** Components of a community action program may be administered by the community action agency when consistent with sound and efficient management and applicable law, or by other agencies. They may be projects eligible for assistance under section 268.52, or projects assisted from other public or private sources; and they may be either specially designed to meet local needs, or designed pursuant to the eligibility standards of a state or federal program providing assistance to a particular kind of activity which will help in meeting those needs.

**History:** 1981 c 367 s 4