**HF2160 Frequently Asked Questions: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention Grants**

***What is FASD?***

* FASD is an umbrella term describing the range of birth defects caused by prenatal alcohol exposure. FASD is a disability with lifelong implications that can impact brain function, development, learning, behavior and social skills.
	+ Prenatal Alcohol Exposure (PAE) is the leading preventable cause of preventable birth defects in the U.S.
	+ One in seven pregnancies is exposed to alcohol.
	+ One in 20 children in the U.S. has an FASD.
	+ FASD is common, irreversible and 100% preventable.

***What is the purpose of the proposed bill?***

* The purpose of our proposed bill is to increase funding of FASD Prevention Grants by 500k (from 750K to 1.25M) to make prevention services available to *more people in more communities.*

***What are FASD Prevention Grants?***

* FASD Prevention Grants provide community-based, long term recovery support services for people that are pregnant or parenting with histories of alcohol-use disorders. These programs help reduce the incidence rates of FASD by helping pregnant or parenting people:
	+ maintain their sobriety during their pregnancy
	+ connect to community services and support
	+ make meaningful social connections

***Who do the FASD Prevention Grants serve?***

* Currently FASD Prevention Grants go to organizations like Wayside Recovery, Avivo and Family Services Rochester.
* Services currently reach people in the five-county metro area and Benton, Stearns, Olmsted and Winona counties.
* Services reach, on average, 161 women and 235 children.

Demographics of people served:

Wayside:

* Priority focus is on providing community-based recovery services for women who are pregnant and parenting, especially those with alcohol use disorders.
* Five county Twin Cities metro area
* Serves women with significant histories of substance abuse, co-occurring disorders, homelessness, and trauma.
* 40% of clients enter treatment pregnant; 70% enter with dependent children.
* 44% of clients identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color (BIPOC) including 16% Indigenous, 13% African American, and 15% biracial/multiracial.
* 96% of all the women served are Medicaid eligible and have experienced intergenerational poverty and oppression.

Family Services Rochester:

* Olmsted and Winona counties
* 29% of women served identify as BIPOC, however 47% of their children are reported as BIPOC.

Avivo:

* Benton, Stearns and five county Twin Cities metro area.
* Priority focus is on participants are experiencing substance use disorders (with 20% alcohol use disorder only) and are living below 125% of federal poverty guidelines.
* 85% last year had recently experienced homelessness; typically, about half are involved with Child Protection Services and/or were involved with the criminal justice system (an Avivo staff member visits the Shakopee Correctional Facility for Women weekly to promote our support services for those who will soon be exiting).
* 26% African American; 26% Native American; 4% Asian; 5% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; 9% Other; 30% Caucasian.

***What are the outcomes of FASD Prevention Grants?***

* On average, 93% of babies born without prenatal alcohol exposure.
* In fact, during the last reporting cycle, 100% of the babies were born without prenatal alcohol exposure.

***Why do we need an increase in FASD Prevention Grant funding?***

* Under the current level of funding these grant funded programs are only reaching a small fraction of people who would benefit from the services. That’s because 8,755 babies are born with prenatal alcohol exposure each year in Minnesota.
* We need to **expand** the reach of these grant funded programs to reach **more** people in **more** communities throughout Minnesota.

***Who would be reached with additional funding?***

* An increase in FASD Prevention Grant funding could fund a prospective grantee in northcentral Minnesota that has a culturally focused program called the White Bison program (Native American wellbriety model) which could support members from Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake communities.

***How is Proof Alliance currently working with Tribal Communities?***

* Separate from the FASD Prevention Grant program, Proof Alliance has an [“Our Children Are Sacred” Program](https://www.proofalliance.org/article/ourchildrenaresacred/) - an endeavor by and for Indigenous people to reduce the impact of FASD in Indian Country. Our Children Are Sacred brings culturally-informed information, programs, traditional teachings, and resources to Indian Country, such as [Public Service Announcements](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZeowGFSSGs), Virtual Trainings and a [Mobile App](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/our-children-are-sacred/id1620436432).
* Proof Alliance also provides community grants to Native American communities to create and implement culturally specific FASD prevention or support programs/services. The current grant recipients are:
	+ Division of Indian Work (DIW)
	+ Minneapolis American Indian Center (MAIC)
	+ Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center (MIWRC)
	+ Native American Community Clinic (NACC)

***Who is*** [***Proof Alliance***](https://www.proofalliance.org/)***:***

* Proof Alliance is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has provided comprehensive prevention and care to communities across Minnesota for 25 years. Below is a high-level list of our work to prevent FASD and care for individuals and families impacted by FASD:
	+ [Prevention Campaigns](https://fasdproof.org/)
	+ [Prevention Grants](https://www.proofalliance.org/grants/) (to colleges, tribal communities, and community partners)
	+ [Professional Education and Training](https://www.proofalliance.org/support/fasd-training-tools/)
	+ [Health Systems Practice Change](https://www.proofalliance.org/national-reach/)
	+ [Our Children Are Sacred Program](https://www.proofalliance.org/article/ourchildrenaresacred/) to prevent/care for people with FASD in Indian Country
	+ [Public Policy and Advocacy](https://www.proofalliance.org/advocacy/)
	+ [On-Site Diagnostic Clinic](https://www.proofalliance.org/diagnosis/diagnostic-clinic/)
	+ [Care & Support for Youth and Caregivers](https://www.proofalliance.org/support/)

**FASD Advocacy Day 2023 Details**

**Tuesday, February 21st at Christ Lutheran Church (across from MSB)
Program 9am-10am**

* We will interrupt the program when you arrive, so you can quickly say a few words then get back to your office (arriving around 9:20 would be perfect). Senator Morrison is unable to attend, but another author in the Senate (Jim Abeler) will say a few words around 9:30am.
* Share why you decided to chief author this bill, and the importance of support services for healthy pregnancies in underserved communities.
* Encourage advocates to share their story with legislators on FASD Advocacy Day.