



COUNCIL INITIATIVE: INCLUDING TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS AS ELIGIBLE GRANTEEES FOR MET COUNCIL GRANT PROGRAMS

H.F. 3884 (Lee, K.)

This proposal would update Minnesota Statutes to include Tribal governments in the Twin Cities metro area as eligible for the Metropolitan Council's Community Tree Planting program and Livable Communities Act program.

Background

Livable Communities grants (Sections 1 through 4)

This proposal would include Tribal governments as a development authority in the Twin Cities region and allow Tribal governments in the metro area to apply for grant opportunities in the Livable Communities Act program, along with local governments in the region (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.252, subdivision 1a; section 473.253, subdivision 2; section 473.254, subdivision 6; section 473.244, subdivision 1c.). The Livable Communities Act was established in 1996 to provide additional resources to local governments. The program's focus includes supporting affordable housing production, investigating and cleaning up polluted land to restore it to a use that is taxable, policy and development activities that support regional housing goals, and transit-oriented development.

Community Tree Planting grants (Section 5)

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature established a new Community Tree Planting program (Minnesota Statutes, section 473.355) that authorizes cities, counties, townships, and regional parks implementing agencies to access regional funds for maintaining a robust and sustainable tree cover across the Twin Cities region. Tribal governments may be able to receive grant funds as a sub-recipient under current law (through partnership with other government units participating in the program), and this proposal would allow them to be able to directly apply for and receive tree planting grants from the Met Council.

Why the Met Council is pursuing this legislation

Including Tribal governments in those eligible to compete for these two programs removes barriers to accessing grant funds. In addition, including Tribal governments as eligible direct recipients for Livable Communities funds would treat Tribal governments like any other development authority in the region, which would allow Tribal governments to apply for funds and develop projects directly in communities where the local government has already opted into the Livable Communities program, similar to how port authorities and county governments are eligible. This gives Tribal governments access to this program to address needs impacting members of Tribal communities who live in the region.

These two programs support regional goals outlined in the Regional Development Guide (Imagine 2050) as well as statewide climate and housing stability goals.

Contact

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