

**Subject** Grants to women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes

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## Overview

This bill establishes a grant program for women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes, administered by the commissioner of health. It appropriates \$4,000,000 each fiscal year from the general fund for this grant program and reduces the general fund base for the health improvement budget activity at the Department of Health, as established in Laws 2023, chapter 70, by \$4,000,000 each fiscal year.

## Summary

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| 1 | <p><b>Title.</b></p> <p>Provides this act shall be known as the Supporting Women Act.</p>  |
| 2 | <p><b>Grant program for women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes.</b></p> <p>Adds § 145.909. Establishes a grant program for women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes, administered by the commissioner of health; specifies eligibility for grants and allowable uses of grant funds; establishes privacy protections for women served by grant recipients; and requires the commissioner to monitor and review programs receiving grants.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Defines terms for this section: commissioner, maternity home, women’s pregnancy center.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Grant program established.</b> Directs the commissioner of health to administer a program to provide grants to maternity homes and women’s pregnancy centers to fund housing, services, and assistance to help pregnant women carry their pregnancies to term and care for their children after birth.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Eligibility for grants.</b> To be eligible for a grant, requires a women’s pregnancy center or maternity home to be a nonprofit organization, offer programs and services or referrals for programs and services to pregnant women and women who recently gave birth to help them carry their pregnancies to term</p> |

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and care for their children after birth, provide programs or services for free or at reduced cost, and not use grant funds to provide abortions, refer women for abortions, or encourage women to have an abortion not necessary to prevent her death. Provides an organization that provides abortions, promotes abortions, or directly refers women for abortions, and affiliates of such organizations unless the organizations are separately incorporated and independent, are not eligible for a grant under this section.

**Subd. 4. Uses of grant funds.** Requires women’s pregnancy centers to use grant funds for programs and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant women to carry their pregnancies to term and care for their children after birth. Requires maternity homes to use grant funds for housing, supervision, and programs and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant women to carry their pregnancies to term and care for their children after birth. Lists programs and services that may be provided or for which referrals may be made.

**Subd. 5. Privacy protections.** Requires women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes receiving a grant to have a privacy policy that prohibits certain information from being made public or shared without the woman’s consent; provides that women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes must comply with the Minnesota Health Records Act for releases of information about medical care provided; and requires women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes to provide the commissioner with information needed to monitor and review the grant program.

**Subd. 6. Monitoring and review.** Requires the commissioner to collect data from grant recipients and monitor each recipient’s program. Classifies data collected by the commissioner on individuals receiving services from a women’s pregnancy center or maternity home as private data on individuals.

3 **Health improvement.**

Amends Laws 2023, ch. 70, art. 20, § 3, subd. 2, as amended. Reduces the general fund base in fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 for the health improvement budget activity at the Department of Health, as established in Laws 2023, chapter 70, by \$4,000,000 each fiscal year.

4 **Appropriations.**

Appropriates \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the grant program for women’s pregnancy centers and maternity homes, with \$3,000,000 each year for women’s pregnancy centers and \$1,000,000 each year for maternity homes.



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