



VOICES FOR
RACIAL JUSTICE

May 2nd, 2023

RE: A Call to Fairly Fund the Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grants Program with 10 million budget per biennium

Dear chairs Sen. Wiklund & Rep. Liebling and members of the S.F. 2995 Conference Committee,

Voices for Racial Justice (VRJ) is a movement organization of leaders, organizers, and culture workers who envision a world without racism and that honors the wisdom and power of Black, Indigenous, and people of color. The impact of our work has strengthened our State for over 30 years as we have supported BIPOC communities to use their power through organizing, leadership training, community policy & research to win meaningful and equitable change.

We are writing today to express our concern regarding the current proposed funding of **8 million** budget per biennium for the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program outlined in Article 13, Section 18 of the Senate Health, and Human Services Omnibus Bill **SF 2995** .

Today, we urge all of you to support the 10 million funding for the Community Solutions Grant program as outlined originally in the House Omnibus Health Bill HF 2930 to continue this essential work. In a budget of many billions and in a state with some of the most dramatic racial disparities in health equity and other key measures, 10 million should be seen as the bare minimum of investment in a program such as this.

By ensuring this support of the Community Solutions for Healthy Child Development Grant program, you acknowledge the value of BIPOC voices being centered in decision-making spaces and the ability of BIPOC communities to use our knowledge of our own communities to solve our own issues. We hope our leaders in Minnesota are ready to address and break the long-standing cycle of inequity and open the door for everyone in the state to thrive by ensuring the basic funding of this important grants program.

Sincerely,

Nicole Donoso (She/her)
Policy & Democracy Organizer



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