

Subject Grants management training and oversight requirements

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Overview

Under current law, the Department of Administration has general oversight authority for grants issued by the state. That authority does not involve overseeing most specific grants. Instead, the department establishes policies, provides training, and serves as a central point of contact for issues related to the grant process. Other state agencies issue and oversee grants based on the training and guidance provided by the Department of Administration.

This bill specifies that the Department of Administration must create an exam and continuing education requirements for state employees seeking to be certified to oversee grants. It also requires state agencies to only assign grants management responsibilities to employees with the appropriate certification. It requires agencies overseeing grants to perform in-person monitoring visits of certain grant recipients, document certain behaviors, report suspected fraud, and move to withhold payments and debar grantees under certain circumstances. It requires the Department of Administration to maintain a list of grantees who have been disciplined or debarred.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Grants management responsibilities.</p> <p>Defines the term “grants management responsibilities” for purposes of the sections of law related to the grant process under the Department of Administration. Identifies 14 specific actions that qualify as grants management responsibilities, including the steps from developing a request for proposal through reviewing applications, issuing awards, monitoring compliance, and performing final reviews and closeouts.</p> |
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Section	Description
2	<p>Duties.</p> <p>Specifies that the commissioner of administration's duties related to the oversight of the grant process includes certifying state employees who have demonstrated knowledge of grants management policies and procedures and maintaining a list of grantees who have been disciplined. Requires the commissioner to develop an exam component to verify that state employees have knowledge of grants management policies and a continuing education requirement for state employees certified as having proficiency in the grant process.</p>
3	<p>Grant management oversight; training and certification required.</p> <p>Requires granting agencies to only assign grants management responsibilities to employees who have participated in required training and received a certification from the commissioner of administration. Authorizes the commissioner to approve a temporary exception if a granting agency does not have an employee with the appropriate certification as long as the employee completes the required training within 30 days. Authorizes the commissioner to impose additional reporting and oversight requirements if the commissioner approves a temporary exception.</p>
4	<p>Grant administration.</p> <p>Establishes oversight and reporting requirements for granting agencies. Specifically requires unannounced, in-person monitoring visits of grantees who receive over \$50,000 and an annual visit of grantees who receive over \$250,000. Requires granting agencies to document instances when a grantee fails to comply with the terms of a grant agreement. Directs the granting agency to provide technical assistance if it determines that the failure was unintentional or not serious and requires the granting agency to report failures that are considered intentional, serious, or part of a pattern of similar conduct. Requires granting agencies to report credible information that a grantee has committed fraud, cooperate with any investigation into suspected fraud, and stop or withhold payments unless directed otherwise by a law enforcement agency or there is a determination that the grantee did not commit fraud or otherwise engage in an unlawful use of public funds. Requires the granting agency to suspend or debar a grantee if, based on a preponderance of the evidence, the granting agency determines that the grantee engaged in certain conduct specified in Minnesota Rules, part 1230.1150, subpart 2.</p>



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