

Subject Human services provider workplace safety grants

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Summary

This bill appropriates \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants to increase safety measures in human services workplaces providing behavioral health care; services for children, families, and vulnerable adults; services for older adults and people with disabilities; and other social services or related care. These are onetime appropriations, and the unencumbered balance in the first year is available for the second year.

The bill specifies that grants are to be awarded to eligible applicants that meet application requirements on a first-come, first-served basis, with 40 percent of awards to organizations outside of the metro area, and award amounts must be between \$5,000 and \$100,000.

The bill specifies eligible applicants, and outlines application requirements. Eligible uses of the grant funds include:

- the procurement and installation of specified safety equipment;
- training for providers;
- facility safety improvements, including but not limited to a threat and vulnerability review and barrier protection;
- support services, counseling, and additional resources for human services providers;
- installation and implementation of an internal data incident tracking system; and
- other prevention and mitigation measures and safety training, resources, and provider support services the commissioner determines to be appropriate.

Paragraph (f) lists several restrictions on safety equipment and paragraph (g) outlines requirements related to any data or other information collected through safety equipment funded by these grants. Paragraph (h) specifies grantee reporting requirements, and requires the commissioner to provide reports to the legislature and relevant ombudsperson offices.