



March 7, 2023

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the State and Local Government and Veterans committee,

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is the largest statewide association of nonprofits in the country, representing over 2,300 member organizations across the state. Through MCN, nonprofits join together across interest areas to work on issues of common interest to all. MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

**We write today in support of HF 2190, which would provide funding to develop a road map for implementing an enterprise grants management system.** We know from the recent [OLA report on state grants to nonprofits](#) that only half of the 27 state agencies that partner with nonprofits through grants have grants management technology. The other half of those state agencies use an inefficient combination of email, online systems, electronic documents, and physical documents to manage grants.

In addition to increasing efficiency, a single grant management platform would allow agencies to review a nonprofit's past performance partnering with a different agency before awarding new grants, and increase opportunities for transparency and data availability on these grants for legislators and the public. Such a platform would save nonprofits resources when applying for state grants, leading to a wider variety of nonprofits delivering services throughout the state.

**In addition, MCN strongly supports pieces of the Department of Administration's budget request related to the state's ability to successfully and equitably oversee its grants to nonprofits.** It is clear from the recent OLA report that grants management staff at state agencies do not have the tools necessary to conduct appropriate oversight and need more support, including training, staff capacity, and technology.

Admin's request would increase much needed capacity at the Department of Administration to support grant management staff in other agencies with clear policies, including guidance on how to implement them, a mandatory training program, and other supports.

Nonprofits must be included in implementing any and all grantmaking reform efforts. We will continue to work with the Department of Administration and granting agencies to bring the voices of nonprofits into this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "marie ellis".

Marie Ellis  
Public Policy Director