

Chair Ginny Klevorn
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Jim Nash
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 26, 2026

Dear Chairs Klevorn and Nash, and members of the State Government Finance and Policy committee,

We are a coalition of nonprofit organizations committed to working with state government to improve grant administration processes and identify best practices for improving public-private partnerships in Minnesota. **We are pleased to voice our strong support for HF 4462.**

HF 4462 makes a practical, high-impact improvement to the way Minnesota's state agencies publish grant opportunities, by requiring the Department of Administration to create a standard executive summary for Requests for Proposals (RFPs). This change addresses a well-known problem in the current grantmaking process: applicants often must search through 20 to 50 pages of dense technical or legal language to find basic information about eligibility, funding structure, timelines, reporting requirements, or payment models.

The complexity of program materials requires organizations to invest significant time simply to understand whether they should apply. This creates an unnecessary burden for both applicants and the state, as agencies review proposals that are not well aligned with program requirements and qualified organizations may self-select out because essential information is not accessible. This dynamic can reduce the overall strength of the applicant pool.

HF 4462 is a practical and efficient solution. The bill requires the Department of Administration to create a template that agencies will use to include a clear, plain-language summary page at the beginning of each RFP with the core information applicants need to evaluate the opportunity. This includes items such as program purpose, applicant eligibility, available funding, anticipated award size or number of awards, key deadlines, and major grant administration requirements. Agencies already develop this information as part of the grant process; the bill simply standardizes how it is presented so it can be easily found and understood.

This reform will improve transparency, reduce administrative burden, and promote better outcomes. When expectations are clear at the start, applicants can better assess financial and operational risk, agencies receive proposals that are more closely aligned with program goals, and fewer resources are spent on clarification, rework, or misaligned applications. This bill protects taxpayer dollars by tightening the link between clear expectations, quality proposals, and well-executed grant contracts.

The proposal also promotes more equitable access to state funding. Small, rural, and culturally-specific organizations often have limited grant-seeking staff capacity, and lengthy, complex RFPs can create barriers to participation.

Finally, this proposal aligns Minnesota with recent federal grantmaking reforms. In 2024, the federal Office of Management and Budget required agencies to include plain-language executive summaries in all funding opportunities to reduce administrative burden, improve transparency, and help applicants understand requirements before applying. Aligning state practice with these standards will create greater consistency for applicants and reflect best practices in grant administration.

HF 4462 strengthens existing processes by standardizing information that agencies already generate. This improves efficiency for both state agencies and the organizations that deliver services in partnership with the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Council on Foundations
Propel Nonprofits
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
YouthPrise

Contact:

Marie Ellis, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org, 651-757-3060