

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Grant program to promote children's school readiness

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Overview

Directs the human services commissioner to make grants available to qualified community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes working with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers and community-based partnerships to implement early literacy programs.

Section

1 Family, friend, and neighbor grant program.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. Establishes a grant program to promote children's early literacy, healthy development, and school readiness and to foster community partnerships that promote school readiness. Directs the human services commissioner to make grants available to qualified community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes working with family, friend, and neighbor caregivers and community-based partnerships to implement early literacy programs.

Subd. 2. Program components. (a) (1) Requires grants to be used to: provide training, support, and resources; connect caregivers, children, and their families with appropriate community resources; connect caregivers, children, and their families to early childhood screening programs and referrals; provide caregivers, children, and their families with information about DHS early learning guidelines; provide caregivers, children, and their families with information about becoming a licensed provider; and provide caregivers, children, and their families with information about

Section

early learning allowances, and child care and preschool programs.

(2) Allows grants to be used for: health and safety and early learning kits; play and learn groups; transportation to early childhood activities; school readiness activities; data collection and outreach; translation needs; and administrative costs equal to 12 percent of the grant amount.

(b) Requires grants to be used to fund partnerships among library systems, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes to implement early literacy programs in low-income communities.

Subd. 3. Grant awards. Directs interested entities to apply to the DHS commissioner and directs the commissioner to award grants consistent with this section.

Subd. 4. Evaluation. Directs the commissioner, in consultation with University of Minnesota experts, to evaluate the impact of the grants on children's school readiness and to report to the legislature by February 15, 2010.

Makes this section immediately effective.

- 2 Appropriation; family, friend, and neighbor grant program.** Appropriates unspecified general fund sums to the DHS commissioner for grants and makes funds available through the second fiscal year.