

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Lanning and others

Subject: Establishing Grant Programs for Healthy Communities and Circles of Support

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Overview

This bill establishes grant programs to promote healthy communities and the development of circles of support initiatives and appropriates money for these purposes in order to further the recommendations of the Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force.

The Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force, born out of recommendations from the Legislative Commission to End Poverty, was created to identify specific policies, strategies, and actions to:

1. increase opportunities for poor and near-poor families and individuals to acquire assets and create and build wealth;
2. expand the utilization of Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota (FAIM) or other culturally specific individual development account programs;
3. reduce or eliminate predatory financial practices in Minnesota through regulatory actions, legislative enactments, and the development and deployment of alternative, nonpredatory financial products;
4. provide incentives or assistance to private sector financial institutions to offer additional programs and services that provide alternatives to and education about predatory financial products;
5. provide financial literacy information to low-income families and individuals at the time the recipient has the ability, opportunity, and motivation to receive, understand, and act on the information provided; and
6. identify incentives and mechanisms to increase community engagement in combating poverty and helping poor and near-poor families and individuals to acquire assets and create and build wealth.

By June 1, 2012, the task force must provide written recommendations and any draft legislation necessary to implement the recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over commerce and consumer protection.

1 Purpose. Specifies that the purpose of the establishment of the grant programs in this bill is to move

forward certain recommendations of the Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force.

- 2 **Circles of support grants.** Requires the commissioner to provide grants to community action agencies to foster social assets to assist people out of poverty through circles of support. Specifies the requirements of the circles of support initiatives. Makes this section effective July 1, 2011.
- 3 **Appropriations.** Appropriates unspecified amounts in fiscal years 2012 and 2013 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the healthy community initiatives and circles of support initiatives. Makes this section effective July 1, 2011.
- 4 **Northern Connections.** Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for a grant to Northern Connections in Perham for a workforce program that provides one-stop supportive services to individuals as they transition into the workforce.
- 5 **Workforce transition services.** Appropriates an unspecified amount in fiscal years 2011 and 2012 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for grants to counties that have a written collaboration agreement to establish and operate programs that provide one-stop supportive services to individuals as they transition into the workforce. Requires the commissioner to award grants on a competitive basis in accordance with criteria to be developed by the commissioner in consultation with the commissioner of human services.