

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 503
Version: As introduced

DATE: April 6, 2015

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Subject: Child Advocacy Center grants

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Overview

This bill establishes a grant program within the Department of Public Safety for child advocacy centers. These centers coordinate the investigation, treatment, and management of abuse cases and assist victims of abuse.

Section

1 Child advocacy center grants.

Subd. 1. Establishment and purpose. Explains that the program is established to provide stable funding and ensure continued viability of core functions in abuse cases.

Subd. 2. Grants. Lists allowable uses of grant money, including forensic interviews; interdisciplinary team investigations, programs, and facilities; mental health, support, and advocacy services; specialized medical exams; and training.

Subd. 3. Application; eligibility. Provides that public and private organizations that utilize an interdisciplinary team of professionals to investigate, treat, and manage child and vulnerable adult abuse cases may apply for a grant. Directs DPS to approve the application form and outlines evidence that must be included in the application.

Subd. 4. Duties of grantees. Requires grantees to comply with DPS grant rules.

Subd. 5. Definitions. Defines “child” and “vulnerable adult.”

2 Appropriation. Appropriates \$1,500,000 in FY16 and FY17 to be allocated as follows:

- (1) \$150,000 each fiscal year to the Minnesota Children’s Alliance for services to grantees.
- (2) Existing centers may apply for grants not to exceed \$120,000 each fiscal year.

Section

(3) To the extent funds remain, organizations may apply for grants to develop or establish centers and existing centers may apply for grants to expand or enhance services.

This appropriation is added to the base.