

**File Number:** H.F. 846  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** March 9, 2017

**Authors:** Albright and others

**Subject:** Unlocking Opportunities Grant Program

**Analyst:** Danyell A. Punelli

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

### Overview

This bill establishes the unlocking opportunities grant program to serve locked-out individuals with community-based housing services and appropriates money for this purpose.

#### Section

**1**        **Unlocking opportunities grant program.** Creates § 256K.50.

**Subd. 1. Grant program established.** Requires the commissioner of human services to establish the unlocking opportunities grant program and award grants to providers capable of serving locked-out individuals with community-based housing services. Creates the programs to serve locked-out individuals, particularly African American men and people of color, who experience violence, poverty, homelessness, and incarceration, and who are without access to needed resources. Specifies the purpose of the program is to provide community-based housing services to increase access to stable housing and employment, improve mental and physical well-being, and reduce recidivism.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Defines the terms “at risk of being homeless,” “commissioner,” “homeless,” and “locked-out individual.”

**Subd. 3. Report.** Requires the commissioner to prepare a biennial report, beginning in October 2018, to provide information to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over locked-out individuals. Lists the information that must be included in the report, including:

**Section**

- the service needs of locked-out individuals and areas of the state with the greatest need for services;
- details about grants made;
- the distribution of funds throughout the state based on population need; and
- any savings to the state through individuals' increased employment and stable housing and reduced state spending on government crisis interventions.

**Subd. 4. Services.** Requires grantees to use the grant to provide locked-out individuals with affordable housing and other services. In awarding grants, requires the commissioner to prioritize applicants based on the number of specified services the applicant is capable of providing.

- 2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$14,100,000 in fiscal year 2018 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the unlocking opportunities grant program. Adds this appropriation to the base.