

Subject Grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities

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Overview

H.F. 3693 establishes a grant program to expand access to child care for children with disabilities. The commissioner of human services is directed to establish the competitive grant program and award the grants to counties or tribes. The grants must be used to serve children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings alongside children without disabilities.

The bill appropriates \$250,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner for this grant program and provides a base of \$250,000 in each of fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. The bill provides that the appropriation is not ongoing and directs the commissioner of management and budget to not include a base amount for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities.
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Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of human services to establish competitive grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities. Grants must be awarded to counties or tribes, and the grants must be used to serve children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings. Defines the terms “child with a disability” and “inclusive child care setting.”

Subd. 2. Commissioner’s duties. Directs the commissioner to: (1) develop a request for proposals with stakeholder input; (2) develop procedures for data collection and outcome measurement and reporting requirements for grantees; (3) convene a working group of grantees, partners, and participating families; and (4) by November 1, 2023, provide a report on the grant program to the legislature. The report must be made available to the public.

Section **Description**

Subd. 3. Grant activities. Provides that grantees must use grant funds to expand access to inclusive child care settings to children with disabilities and identifies activities for which grant funds may be used.

Subd. 4. Requirements for grant recipients. Requires that grant recipients, upon receipt of funds and throughout the grant period, must: (1) partner with at least two but no more than five child care providers, each of which must meet specified criteria; (2) ensure that grant funding is used to support children with disabilities who would otherwise have difficulty accessing inclusive child care settings; (3) pursue ongoing funding for services needed for children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings; (4) explore opportunities to use existing federal funds to provide ongoing support to child care settings serving children with disabilities; and (5) identify and utilize training resources for child care providers for at least one of the grant recipient's partner child care providers.

Subd. 5. Reporting. Requires grantees to report every six months to the commissioner on specified topics.

2 Appropriation.

Appropriates \$250,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities. Allows the commissioner to use up to seven percent of the appropriation for administration and technical assistance. The base is \$250,000 in each of fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. It is not an ongoing appropriation, and the commissioner of management and budget must not include a base amount for this appropriation in fiscal year 2024.



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