

Subject COVID-19 emergency community relief grants

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Overview

Funds grants to individuals in financial distress from the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	COVID-19 emergency community relief grants.
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Establishes the COVID-19 emergency community relief grant program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Creates a program to award grants to community action agencies that will then make grants to individuals experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Subd. 2. Statewide grants. Directs that grant funds be split approximately equally between the metropolitan area and greater Minnesota. Prioritizes grants to agencies serving culturally specific populations either directly or through subgrants to other organizations.

Subd. 3. Eligibility for individuals. Requires individual applicants for grant funds to demonstrate financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Includes, but is not limited to, individuals who:

- are ineligible for unemployment;
- rely on income from tips or other earnings not included in unemployment calculations; or
- will not qualify for or will face significant difficulty in receiving other federal or state assistance.

Subd. 4. Maximum grant award. Limits grants to individuals to \$1,500 or less, with individual award amounts determined based on individual needs and resources.

Section	Description
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Subd. 5. Use of grant funds. Allows individuals to use grant funds for basic living expenses. Requires that any grant funds for rent support or utility bills be paid directly to the owner of the rental property or the utility company.

Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2 **Appropriation.**

Appropriates \$50,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for grants to community action agencies for making individual grants under section 1. Allows up to ten percent of this amount to be used for administrative costs of the state agency or community grantees. This is a onetime appropriation and funds are available until the end of fiscal year 2021.

Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.



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