

Subject Grant program to increase the number of child care providers

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Date February 24, 2021

Summary

This bill appropriates \$10 million in fiscal year 2022 from the general fund to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for grants to communities to increase the number of child care providers. This is a onetime appropriation.

DEED must award at least 50% of the grant money to communities located outside the seven-county metropolitan area. In awarding the grants, DEED must give priority to communities that have a demonstrated shortage of child care providers.

Grant recipients must provide a 50% nonstate match to grant money in either cash or in-kind contribution, unless DEED waives this requirement. The grant money must be used for activities intended to reduce the child care shortage. Allowed activities include: funding child care start-ups or expansions; facility modifications; training; and direct subsidies for retaining child care employees. Grant recipients must report program outcomes to DEED within one year of receiving grant money, and DEED must report all grant recipients' program outcomes to the legislature within one month of collecting all the program outcomes.