

Subject Mental health workforce

Authors Vang and others

Analyst Elisabeth Klarqvist

Date February 18, 2022

Overview

This bill contains provisions to increase the number of individuals in the mental health workforce. These provisions include expanding eligibility for the health professional education loan forgiveness program, establishing a mental health provider supervision grant program and a mental health professional scholarship grant program, and appropriating money for additional training sessions for peer specialists, the cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program, and a website for mental health professionals. This bill also modifies the qualification requirements for case managers for adults with serious and persistent mental illness.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	Creation of account.
----------	-----------------------------

Amends § 144.1501, subd. 2. Expands eligibility for loan forgiveness under the health professional education loan forgiveness program, to include mental health professionals who agree to provide up to 768 hours per year of clinical supervision in their designated field. (Mental health professional is defined as an individual providing clinical services in the treatment of mental illness who is qualified in at least one of the following ways: a registered nurse with a specific certification, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a psychologist, a physician with a specific certification or who is eligible for board certification, a marriage and family therapist, or a licensed professional clinical counselor.)

2	Loan forgiveness.
----------	--------------------------

Amends § 144.1501, subd. 4. Modifies criteria the commissioner must consider when evaluating applications from mental health professionals for loan forgiveness under the health professional education loan forgiveness program, to require the commissioner to give preference to applicants who demonstrate competence in providing culturally responsive services or who are providing services to underserved communities, including communities in rural areas. (For all other applicants the

Section	Description
	commissioner must give preference to applicants who document diverse cultural competencies.)
3	<p>Mental health provider supervision grant program.</p> <p>Adds § 144.1508. Establishes a program to provide grants to mental health providers to fund supervision of interns and clinical trainees and to subsidize the cost of licensing applications and examination fees for clinical trainees.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: mental health professional, underrepresented community.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Grant program established. Directs the commissioner of health to award grants to eligible mental health providers to fund supervision of interns and clinical trainees working toward becoming a licensed mental health professional and to subsidize the costs of mental health professional licensing applications and examination fees.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Eligible providers. Provides that to be eligible for a grant, a mental health provider must either provide at least 25% of its services to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee discounts, or primarily serve persons from communities of color or underrepresented communities.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Application; grant award. Requires a mental health provider seeking a grant to apply to the commissioner, and requires the commissioner to review applications and to determine grant amounts awarded.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Allowable uses of grant funds. Allows a mental health provider to use grant funds to pay for direct supervision hours for interns and clinical trainees, to establish a program to provide supervision to multiple interns or clinical trainees, and to pay mental health professional licensing application and examination fees.</p> <p>Subd. 6. Program oversight. Allows the commissioner to require grant recipients to provide the commissioner with information needed to evaluate the program.</p>
4	<p>Mental health professional scholarship grant program.</p> <p>Adds § 144.1509. Establishes a mental health professional scholarship grant program administered by the commissioner of health.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: mental health professional, underrepresented community.</p>

Section	Description
---------	-------------

Subd. 2. Grant program established. Establishes a mental health professional scholarship program for mental health providers to fund employee scholarships for master's level education programs to become mental health professionals.

Subd. 3. Provision of grants. Directs the commissioner of health to award grants to mental health providers to provide tuition reimbursement for master's level programs and reimbursement for certain related costs for individuals who have worked for the mental health provider for at least the past two years in one or more of the listed roles.

Subd. 4. Eligibility. Provides that to be eligible for a grant, a mental health provider must either provide at least 25% of its services to state public program enrollees or patients receiving sliding fee discounts, or primarily serve persons from communities of color or underrepresented communities.

Subd. 5. Request for proposals. Directs the commissioner to publish a request for proposals specifying eligibility requirements, employee scholarship program criteria, provider selection criteria, documentation requirements, the maximum award amount, and method of evaluation.

Subd. 6. Application requirements. Requires an eligible provider seeking grant under this section to apply to the commissioner, and lists information that an application must contain.

Subd. 7. Selection process. Requires the commissioner to determine a maximum award amount and to select grant recipients based on information provided in the application.

Subd. 8. Grant agreements. Provides that funds awarded to a grant recipient do not lapse until the grant agreement expires.

Subd. 9. Allowable uses of grant funds. Allows a mental health provider to use grant funds to provide tuition reimbursement for a master's level program that will allow an employee to qualify as a mental health professional, and for resources and supports that support an employee in a master's level program.

Subd. 10. Reporting requirements. Requires a mental health provider receiving a grant under this section to report certain information to the commissioner.

5 **Case management service provider.**

Amends § 245.462, subd. 4. Modifies the qualification requirements to be a case manager for adults with serious and persistent mental illness, to require a case

Section	Description
---------	-------------

	manager to be a mental health practitioner in addition to the other listed requirements.
--	--

6 Appropriations.

Makes the following blank appropriations in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund:

- to the commissioner of health for loan forgiveness for additional mental health professionals under the health professional education loan forgiveness program;
- to the commissioner of health for the mental health provider supervision grant program;
- to the commissioner of health for the mental health professional scholarship grant program;
- to the commissioner of human services to increase the number of training sessions to certify individuals as mental health certified peer specialists or mental health certified family peer specialists;
- to the commissioner of human services for the cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program; and
- to the commissioner of health to establish and maintain a website with information for mental health professionals and individuals seeking to qualify as a mental health professional.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155