

Subject Community solutions for healthy child development grant program

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Overview

A community solutions for healthy child development grant program was established at the Department of Health and funded for fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Because the program was not permanently funded, the language governing the program was not coded in statute. This bill establishes the grant program in statute and permanently funds the program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Community solutions for healthy child development grant program.
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Adds § 145.9285. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a community solutions for healthy child development grant program and a Community Solutions Advisory Council to provide advice on issuing grants under the program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of health to establish a community solutions for healthy child development grant program, and lists purposes of the program: improving child development outcomes for children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade 3 and their families, reducing racial disparities in children's health and development, and promoting racial and geographic equity.

Subd. 2. Commissioner's duties. Lists duties for the commissioner under this program, including developing a request for proposals; providing outreach, technical assistance, and program development; reviewing responses to the RFP; ensuring communication with other entities in state government; establishing an accountability process; providing grantees with access to data; maintaining outcomes data; and contracting with an independent entity for evaluation.

Subd. 3. Community Solutions Advisory Council; establishment; duties; compensation. Requires the commissioner, in consultation with the listed entities in the department, to appoint 12 members to a Community Solutions Advisory Council. Specifies advisory council membership and duties. Requires

Section **Description**

compensation of advisory council members according to section 15.059, subdivision 3 (\$55 per day spent on council activities, plus expenses).

Subd. 4. Eligible grantees. Makes the following organizations eligible to receive grants under this program: organizations that work with communities of color and American Indian communities, Tribal Nations and Tribal organizations, and organizations that focus on supporting healthy child development.

Subd. 5. Strategic consideration and priority of proposals; eligible populations; grant awards. Directs the commissioner, in consultation with the advisory council, to develop a request for proposals for grants, and requires proposals to focus on increasing racial equity and healthy child development and reducing health disparities. In awarding grants, requires the commissioner to consider building on the capacity of communities to promote child and family wellbeing and address social determinants of healthy child development, and requires the commissioner to give priority to proposals from organizations that meet one of the listed criteria. Requires initial grants to be awarded by April 15, 2024, requires grants to be awarded annually, and provides that grants are awarded for three-year periods.

Subd. 6. Geographic distribution of grants. Requires the commissioner and advisory council to ensure that grants are prioritized and awarded to organizations in counties with a higher proportion of people of color and American Indians than the state average, to the extent possible.

Subd. 7. Report. Requires grant recipients to report program outcomes to the commissioner in the form and manner required by the commissioner.

- 2 **Appropriation; community solutions for healthy child development grant program.**
Appropriates \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the community solutions for healthy child development grant program.



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