

Subject Home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants

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Overview

This bill establishes home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants to assist with recruiting and retaining direct support staff and frontline workers and appropriates \$43,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund for these grants. The bill also establishes an awareness-building campaign for the recruitment of direct care professionals and appropriates \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund for the campaign.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants.</p> <p>Establishes home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants to assist with recruiting and retaining direct support and frontline workers and appropriates \$43,000,000 for the grants.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Grant program established. Requires the commissioner of human services to establish grants for disability and home and community-based providers to assist with recruiting and retaining direct support and frontline workers.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines “commissioner,” “eligible employer,” and “eligible worker” for purposes of the home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Allowable uses of grant funds. Lists the allowable uses of the grant funds. Limits an eligible worker to receiving up to \$1,000 per year from the home and community-based workforce incentive fund. Requires the commissioner to develop a grant cycle distribution plan that allows for equitable distribution of funding among eligible employers. Specifies the commissioner’s determination of the grant awards and amounts is final and not subject to appeal.</p> |
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Section Description

Subd. 4. Attestation. Requires an eligible employer to attest to specified information as a condition of obtaining grant payments.

Subd. 5. Distribution plan; report. Requires a provider agency or individual that receives a grant to: (1) prepare a distribution plan that specifies the amount of money the provider expects to receive and how that money will be distributed for recruitment and retention purposes; and (2) submit a report to the commissioner that includes a description of how grant funds were distributed to eligible employees and the total dollar amount distributed.

Subd. 6. Audits and recoupment. Allows the commissioner to perform an audit of these grants up to six years after a grant is awarded. Requires the commissioner to treat any grant amounts used for a purpose not authorized under this section as an overpayment and to recover any overpayment.

Subd. 7. Grants not to be considered income. Defines “subtraction” for purposes of this subdivision. Specifies the amount of a grant award received under this grant program is a subtraction and excluded from income under Minnesota income tax laws. Specifies grant awards must not be considered income, assets, or personal property for purposes of determining eligibility or recertifying eligibility for various public assistance and health care programs.

Subd. 8. Appropriation. Appropriates \$43,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the home and community-based workforce incentive fund grants. Specifies this is a onetime appropriation. Makes any unexpended balance in the first year available in the second year of the biennium.

2 Awareness-building campaign for the recruitment of direct care professionals.

Establishes an awareness-building campaign for the recruitment of direct care professionals and appropriates \$4,000,000 for the campaign.

Subd. 1. Grant program established. Requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to implement paid advertising as part of a comprehensive awareness-building campaign aimed at recruiting direct care professionals to provide long-term care services.

Subd. 2. Definition. Defines “direct care professionals” for purposes of this grant program.

Subd. 3. Request for proposals; allowable uses of grant funds. Requires the commissioner to publish a request for proposals to select an outside vendor or vendors to conduct the awareness-building campaign for the recruitment of direct care professionals. Lists the allowable uses of grant funds. Allows the

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commissioner to collaborate with relevant state agencies for the purposes of the development and implementation of this campaign and authorizes the commissioner to transfer administrative funding to those agencies to cover any associated administrative costs.

Subd. 4. Appropriation. Appropriates \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development to develop and implement an awareness-building campaign for the recruitment of direct care professionals. Specifies this is a onetime appropriation and makes any unexpended balance in the first year of the biennium available in the second year of the biennium.



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