

Subject Critical access dental infrastructure program

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Overview

This bill directs the commissioner of health to award grants and forgivable loans to critical access dental providers for eligible dental infrastructure projects and to award grants for eligible dental workforce projects, and appropriates money for these programs.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Critical access dental infrastructure program.
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Requires the commissioner of health to award grants and forgivable loans to critical access dental providers for eligible dental infrastructure projects.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: commissioner, critical access dental provider, and dental infrastructure.

Critical access dental provider means certain nonprofit community clinics that provide oral health services to low-income, uninsured patients; federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and public health clinics; certain publicly owned, hospital-based dental clinics; certain dental clinics or dental groups owned and operated by a nonprofit corporation and that serve more than 10,000 patients per year who are uninsured or enrolled in MA or MinnesotaCare; dental clinics owned and operated by the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State; and private practicing dentists for whom more than a certain percentage of their patients are uninsured or enrolled in MA or MinnesotaCare.

Subd. 2. Grant and loan program established. Requires the commissioner of health to award grants and forgivable loans to critical access dental providers for eligible dental infrastructure projects.

Subd. 3. Eligible projects. To be eligible for a grant or forgivable loan, requires a dental infrastructure project to be proposed by a critical access dental provider

Section	Description
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and to allow the provider to maintain or expand capacity to serve MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

Subd. 4. Application. Requires the commissioner to develop forms and procedures to solicit and review applications and award grants and forgivable loans. Requires a critical access dental provider seeking a grant or forgivable loan to apply to the commissioner in a time and manner specified by the commissioner. Lists criteria on which applications must be reviewed.

Subd. 5. Program oversight. Allows the commissioner to require and collect from grant and loan recipients, information needed to evaluate the program.

2 **Dental workforce development program.**

Directs the commissioner of health to award grants to critical access dental providers and institutions of higher education for eligible dental workforce projects.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for this section: commissioner, critical access dental provider, dental workforce project, institution of high education.

Subd. 2. Grant program established. Directs the commissioner to award grants to critical access dental providers and institutions of higher education for eligible dental workforce projects.

Subd. 3. Eligible projects. To be eligible for a grant, requires a project to be proposed by a critical access dental provider or institution of higher education and to allow education, training, supervision, or onboarding of dental professionals that will maintain or expand capacity to serve MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

Subd. 4. Application. Requires entities seeking a grant under this section to apply to the commissioner in a time and manner specified by the commissioner, establishes criteria under which the commissioner must review applications, and requires the commissioner to award grants based on information in the application.

Subd. 5. Program oversight. Allows the commissioner to require and collect from grant recipients, information needed to evaluate the program.

3 **Appropriations; critical access dental infrastructure program and dental workforce development program.**

Appropriates the following amounts from the general fund to the commissioner of health in fiscal year 2024:

Section **Description**

- a onetime appropriation of \$25,000,000 for a critical access dental infrastructure program; and
- a onetime appropriation of \$5,000,000 for a dental workforce development program.



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