

Subject Culturally specific and culturally responsive behavioral health services; community mental health worker training

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Overview

This bill contains provisions related to culturally specific and culturally responsive behavioral health services, including grant eligibility for traditional healing practices, the cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program, medical assistance coverage of interpreter services in group mental health service settings, training for community health workers, and appropriations for interpreter services, the cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program, and culturally specific provider consultation.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Establishment and authority.
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Amends § 245.4889, subd. 1. Adds mental health services based on traditional healing practices of cultural communities to list of services eligible for children's mental health grants.

2	Cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program.
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Proposes coding for § 245.4907. Codifies the cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program (CEMIG). Requires the commissioner of human services to establish a cultural and ethnic minority infrastructure grant program, to ensure that behavioral health supports and services are culturally specific and culturally responsive.

Outlines grant applicant eligibility and allowable grant activities; requires the commissioner to assist grantees with meeting third-party credentialing requirements; requires grantees to obtain all available third-party reimbursement sources; and specifies that grantees must serve individuals from cultural and ethnic minority communities regardless of health coverage or ability to pay for services.

Section	Description
	Requires grantees to provide regular data to the commissioner, to evaluate grant program effectiveness; lists evaluation criteria.
3	Access to medical services. Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 18a. Adds requirement for medical assistance to cover sign and oral language interpreter services when provided by an enrolled health care provider during the course of providing a mental health service provided in a group setting to an enrolled recipient with limited English proficiency or who has a hearing loss and uses interpreting services.
4	Community health worker. Amends § 256B.0625, subd. 49. Requires the commissioner of human services to collaborate with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to establish a mental health training program that includes training for community health workers.
5	Appropriation. Appropriates money in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for interpreter services at intensive residential treatment facilities, children's residential treatment centers, or psychiatric residential treatment facilities. Specifies that \$100,000 of this appropriation must be for contracting with an organization to provide technical assistance and training to residential providers. Requires grantees to track demographic data, outcomes, and recommendations.
6	Appropriations; cultural and ethnic infrastructure grant funding. Appropriates \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the CEMIG grant program.
7	Appropriations; culturally specific provider consultation. Appropriates money in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for case-specific consultation between a mental health professional and the appropriate diverse mental health professional in order to facilitate the provision of services that are culturally appropriate to a client's needs.



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