

Subject Prepared meals food relief grants

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Overview

This bill establishes a prepared meals grant program to provide hunger relief to Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity and who have difficulty preparing meals due to limited mobility, disability, age, or resources to prepare their own meal, and appropriates money for the grant program.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Prepared meals food relief grants.
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Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a prepared meals grant program to provide hunger relief to Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity and who have difficulty preparing meals due to limited mobility, disability, age, or resources to prepare their own meal.

Subd. 2. Eligible grantees. Specifies eligible grantees are nonprofit organizations with a demonstrated history of providing and distributing prepared meals customized for the population that they serve, including tailoring meals to the cultural, religious, and dietary needs of the population served.

Subd. 3. Application. Requires grant applicants to apply to the commissioner on the forms and according to the timelines established by the commissioner.

Subd. 4. Allowable uses of grant funds. Requires grant funds to be used to provide meals to individuals between 18 and 60 years of age experiencing food insecurity and individuals who are not currently eligible for an existing state or federal meal program. Prohibits grant funds from supplanting any state or federal funding used to provide prepared meals to Minnesotans experiencing food insecurity. Requires grant funds to be used to increase the number of meals distributed by a grantee as compared to the number of meals the grantee distributed in 2022.

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Subd. 5. Duties of the commissioner. Requires the commissioner to develop a process for determining eligible grantees under this section and to prioritize nonprofit organizations that meet specified criteria in granting funds. Requires the commissioner to consider geographic distribution to ensure statewide coverage when awarding grants and to begin issuing grants no later than January 15, 2024.

Provides an immediate effective date.

2 **Appropriation; prepared meals food relief.**

Appropriates \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for prepared meals food relief grants. Specifies this is a onetime appropriation.

Provides an immediate effective date.



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