

**Subject** Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program

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## Overview

This bill codifies an Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program and appropriates \$2,500,000 annually from the general fund in the upcoming biennium (fiscal years 2026-27) to the University of Minnesota for the program.

**Background.** Legislation in 2023 appropriated \$2,500,000 annually in fiscal years 2024-25 for similar purposes, as onetime funds. Laws 2023, ch. 68, art. 1, sec. 15. The bill would create a statutory program.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>[Adds § 137.345] Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program.</b> Establishes a program for partnerships between entities in the University of Minnesota and smaller political subdivisions to provide support and assistance on analysis, design, and project development for infrastructure projects. Specifies uses of available funds.
2	<b>Appropriation; Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program.</b> Appropriates \$2,500,000 in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the University of Minnesota for the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program.