



HF 1 (KOTYZA-WITTHUHN)

THE GREAT START FOR ALL MINNESOTA CHILDREN ACT

Every Minnesota child deserves a great start to life. We all benefit when that happens, but Minnesota suffers from one of the largest opportunity gaps in the country – and this gap starts long before kindergarten.

The Great Start for All Minnesota Children Act invests in prenatal care, home visiting for new parents, and early development and care, especially for low-income children from birth to age 3. Along with the proposals for paid family leave and student supports, House DFLers will work to ensure support for families every step of the way.

OVERVIEW

HF 1 creates additional funding and opportunities for children ages birth to three. It funds prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance.

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- \$5 million in additional funding each of the next two fiscal years for grants to decrease racial and ethnic disparities in access to and utilization of high-quality prenatal care.
- \$23 million in FY 2020 and \$41.6 million in FY 2021 for grants for home visiting services that serve pregnant women and families with young children. Grants are for:
 - creating/expanding evidence-based home visiting programs, or home visiting programs that are culturally or ethnically targeted to the county, reservation, or region of operation
 - serving families with young children or pregnant women who are high risk or have high needs
- Creation of the ***Great Start Fund***:
 - Funding for Early Learning Scholarships
 - » Expanded to all children ages 0–3 whose families have income less than or equal to 400% of the federal poverty level, with scholarship amounts being scaled down for families with income greater than 300% of the federal poverty level
 - » Fund contains sufficient money to provide scholarships to all eligible applicants who meet the qualifications. (Under current law, children ages 0-2 may only qualify if they are the child of a teen parent, currently in foster care, in need of child protective services, or have experienced homelessness in the past 24 months.)
 - Funding for basic sliding fee child care assistance