Overview

Establishes an urban immigrant education and training program in fiscal year 2000 to assist newly arrived immigrants ages 12 to 24 who reside in urban areas to become literate and acquire vocational skills in order to successfully participate in meaningful work and community affairs.

Section

1 Immigrant education and training program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes an urban immigrant education and training program to assist newly arrived immigrants ages 12 to 24 who reside in urban areas to become literate and acquire vocational skills in order to successfully participate in meaningful work and community affairs.

Subd. 2. Grant application. (a) Directs the commissioner of children, families and learning to award grants to public or nonprofit organizations working jointly with the Minneapolis school district to assist newly arrived immigrants ages 12 to 24. Requires applicant organizations to provide culturally specific ESL classes, preparation for skilled employment, culturally specific childcare services or financing for childcare businesses, or business development training. Allows applicant organizations to include community-based ethnic or religious groups, post secondary institutions, community action agencies, workforce development centers and advocacy groups. Requires applicant organizations to
involve parents and community educators and appropriate societal support systems.

(b) Requires a grant to be approximately proportional to the number of program participants and the level of program activities.

(c) Requires an eligible applicant to:

(1) document experience in new immigrant programs;

(2) use no more than five percent of grant funds for administrative costs;

(3) have a fiscal accounting and reporting system;

(4) demonstrate organizational experience in English or bilingual teaching, skilled job development training or culturally specific child care;

(5) target new immigrant populations and establish education and training goals;

(6) indicate program size and schedules;

(7) provide outreach and recruitment plans; and

(8) describe staff expertise and education and job development training plans.

**Subd. 3. Program components.** Requires the program to:

(1) offer ESL classes in school for youth ages 12 to 16 that have a culturally specific focus, are taught by community educators, engage parents and societal support systems, and enhance the youth's life opportunities;

(2) offer a combined educational and vocational program for youth ages 16 to 24 that provides remedial instruction, job readiness and job development skills, and social development opportunities;
Subd. 4. Advisory task force. Allows the commissioner to establish an advisory task force to advise the commissioner on this program. Prohibits task force members from participating in grant discussions in which they have an interest.

Subd. 5. Testimony. Directs the commissioner to present testimony to the legislature by February 15, 2000 summarizing program activities and outcomes and recommending whether to continue the program.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates $500,000 from the general fund to the commissioner of the department of children, families and learning in fiscal year 2000 for the purpose of section 1.