This bill appropriates a total of $790,000 for the 2000-2001 biennium for three kinds of services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons.

1 Appropriation. This bill makes three separate general fund appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001, for grants for services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons:

$100,000 each year is appropriated for a grant to Peoples, Inc. to operate a drop-in center for persons with mental illness that is accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing persons.

$100,000 each year is appropriated to the commissioner of human services for grants to provide specialized community-based mental health services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons who live outside of the Twin Cities 7-county metro area. This appropriation may be used for remote access technology to deliver mental health services through teleconferencing from a centralized site.

$195,000 each year is appropriated to the commissioner of health for grants to counties outside of the 7-county metro area; these grants are to provide the county's match for specialized community-based residential treatment services for deaf and hard-of-hearing persons who need these kinds of services.