Overview

This bill creates a grant program administered by the commissioner of public safety for special response critical incident stress management, fire assistance support teams.

Section

1 Definitions.
   Subd. 1. Scope. States that the definitions apply to sections 299A.75 to 299A.81 (sections 1 to 7).
   Subd. 2. Commissioner. Means the commissioner of public safety.
   Subd. 3. Team. Means a critical incident stress management (CISM) team organized under an emergency medical service (EMS) regional program or by a nonprofit venture.
   Subd. 4. FAST. Means a fire assistance support team recognized by a joint council.

2 CISM, FAST grant program established. Establishes a grant program administered by the commissioner of public safety for grants to (1) CISM teams to enhance the effectiveness of their responses to requests from public safety employees and employers and (2) FAST for responses to catastrophes.

3 Grant eligibility, CISM. Establishes the following eligibility requirements for CISM teams receiving a grant:
   (1) be available to respond 24 hours a day to requests by emergency personnel;
   (2) be recognized by one or more emergency medical services regional programs or at least two state fire or police departments;
   (3) submit a written plan showing how the grant will enhance the effectiveness of the team's response or for reimbursement for expenses incurred during a response; and
   (4) follow procedures established by the commissioner and receive approval from the
commissioner.

4 **Grant eligibility, FAST.** Establishes the following eligibility requirements for a FAST:
   (1) be available to respond to requests by a fire department recognized by the state fire
   marshal;
   (2) have provided assistance in a situation beyond the normal expected operation of the
   department and beyond the capacity of that department's mutual aid agreements;
   (3) submit written documentation of costs incurred, activities to assist the department
   and the plan developed for the department to facilitate a transition back to normal; and
   (4) follow procedures established by the commissioner and receive approval from the
   commissioner.

5 **Grant application.**
   **Subd. 1. Procedures; rules.** Requires grant applicants to follow procedures established
   by rule. Requires that an applicant specifically describe its plan to enhance the
   effectiveness of responses or specifically describe receipts for actual expenses already
   incurred.
   **Subd. 2. Approval.** Requires the commissioner to approve only those grant applications
   that meet eligibility criteria and make grants only if the grant program contains sufficient
   funds to cover the amount of the grant. Allows the commissioner to request
   modifications to a plan. Requires the commissioner to provide written reasons for
   rejecting an application. Allows applicants to modify and resubmit applications.

6 **Plan; qualifying uses.** Requires the commissioner to determine if a plan will enable a team to
   enhance its effectiveness during a response or if expenses are related to an effective CISM
   activity or FAST response.

7 **Grant amount.** Requires that the grant amount be the lesser of:
   (1) the amount requested by the grant application;
   (2) 25 percent of the balance of the grant program fund; or
   (3) 50 percent of the applicant's annual budget.

   States that this limit does not apply to FAST while its normal program costs are borne
   by the joint council but does apply if separate budgeting is established.

8 **Appropriation.** Appropriates $200,000 to the commissioner of public safety from the general
   fund for the biennium ending June 30, 2001 for the critical incident stress management, fire
   assistance support team grant program.