

Subject Grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities

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Overview

This bill establishes a competitive grant program to expand access to child care for children with disabilities. The commissioner of human services must award the grants to counties or tribes, and the grants must be used to serve children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings alongside children without disabilities. The bill appropriates \$250,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for the grants.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Grants to expand access to child care for children with disabilities.
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Subd. 1. Establishment. Directs the commissioner of human services to establish the competitive grant program. Grants must be awarded to counties or tribes, and the grants must be used to serve children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings. Grants must be awarded to at least two applicants beginning no later than December 1, 2021.

Subd. 2. Commissioner's duties. Directs the commissioner to: (1) develop a request for proposals with stakeholder input; (2) develop procedures for data collection, outcome measurement, and reporting requirements for grantees; (3) convene a working group of grantees, partners, and participating families to assess progress on grant activities; and (4) provide a report on the grant program to the legislature and the public.

Subd. 3. Grant activities. Provides that grantees must use grant funds to expand access to inclusive child care settings to children with disabilities and identifies activities for which grant funds may be used.

Subd. 4. Requirements for grantees. Requires grant recipients to: (1) partner with at least three child care providers, each of which must serve at least one child with a disability; (2) ensure that grant funding is used to support children with disabilities who would otherwise have difficulty accessing inclusive child

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care settings; (3) pursue ongoing funding for services needed for children with disabilities in inclusive child care settings; and (4) explore opportunities to use existing federal funds to provide ongoing support to child care settings serving children with disabilities.

Subd. 5. Reporting. Requires grantees to report semiannually to the commissioner on specified topics.

2 **Appropriation.**

Appropriates \$250,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for the grants and allows the commissioner to use up to seven percent of the appropriation for administration and technical assistance.



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