

Subject Emergency Services, Isolation Spaces, and Housing Support
Appropriations

Authors Howard and others

Analyst Danyell A. Punelli

Date February 1, 2021

Overview

This bill appropriates money from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for emergency services, isolations spaces, and housing support in response to COVID-19.

Emergency services grants provide homeless persons essential services and emergency shelter in safe, sanitary, and decent facilities.

The housing support program is a state funded program that provides payments on behalf of eligible persons to pay for room and board and related housing services. In order to be eligible for housing support payments, an individual must be determined eligible for residence in an approved setting and must: (1) be aged, blind, or over 18 years of age and disabled, and meet specified income and asset standards; (2) belong to certain categories of individuals potentially eligible for GA and meet specified income and asset standards; or (3) receive licensed residential crisis stabilization services and MA.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	Appropriation; emergency services.
---	---

	Paragraph (a) appropriates \$9 million in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for emergency services grants. Lists how funds may be used.
--	--

	Paragraph (b) allows the commissioner to allocate funds to programs, providers, or organizations providing or seeking to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness through a single fiscal agent chosen by the commissioner.
--	--

Section	Description
---------	-------------

Paragraph (c) requires grant applicants to describe how they intend to use grant funds. Limits use of funds to the purposes listed in this section.

Paragraph (d) specifies this is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days after the expiration of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency declared by the governor, whichever occurs earlier. Requires any unexpended amounts that are not obligated to cancel to the general fund.

Provides an immediate effective date.

2 Appropriation; isolation spaces.

Paragraph (a) appropriates \$4.3 million in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to establish and maintain isolation spaces for suspected or confirmed COVID-positive individuals experiencing homelessness or who cannot safely isolate at home and do not require a hospital level of care.

Paragraph (b) allows the commissioner to enter into contracts or to directly purchase goods or services to provide isolation spaces or services to establish or maintain such spaces. Allows the commissioner to enter into contracts with local units of government, tribal governments, and nonprofit organizations.

Paragraph (c) allows the commissioner to allocate funding to maintain and extend existing contracts for isolation spaces entered into with Coronavirus Relief Funds. Allows the commissioner to enter into new contracts with eligible entities using expedited contracting authority.

Paragraph (d) specifies this is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days after the expiration of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency declared by the governor, whichever occurs earlier. Requires any unexpended amounts that are not obligated to cancel to the general fund.

Provides an immediate effective date.

3 Appropriation; housing support.

Paragraph (a) appropriates \$4.2 million in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to increase the housing support room and board rates by 10.7 percent in order to maintain access to room and board, including activities necessary to comply with federal and state health and safety guidance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifies this is a onetime appropriation.

Paragraph (b) requires providers to submit documentation to the commissioner of human services prior to July 1, 2021, demonstrating increased funding was used for

Section	Description
---------	-------------

	needs related to COVID-19 for the time period during which the funds appropriated under this section were expended.
--	---

	Provides an immediate effective date.
--	---------------------------------------



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155