

Health and Human Services Omnibus Finance Bill –

Laws of Minnesota 2015, Chapter 71, Article 1

1 Sec. 12. **[256E.28] CHILD PROTECTION GRANTS TO ADDRESS CHILD WELFARE**
2 **DISPARITIES.**

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4 Subdivision 1. **Child welfare disparities grant program established.** The commissioner may
5 award grants to eligible entities for the development, implementation, and evaluation of activities
6 to address racial disparities and disproportionality in the child welfare system by:

- 7 (1) identifying and addressing structural factors that contribute to inequities in outcomes;
8 (2) identifying and implementing strategies to reduce racial disparities in treatment and
9 outcomes;
10 (3) using cultural values, beliefs, and practices of families, communities, and tribes for
11 case planning, service design, and decision-making processes;
12 (4) using placement and reunification strategies to maintain and support relationships and
13 connections between parents, siblings, children, kin, significant others, and tribes; and
14 (5) supporting families in the context of their communities and tribes to safely divert
15 them from the child welfare system, whenever possible.

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17 Subd. 2. **State-community partnerships; plan.** The commissioner, in partnership with the
18 legislative task force on child protection; culturally based community organizations; the Indian
19 Affairs Council under section 3.922; the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People under
20 section 3.9223; the Council on Black Minnesotans under section 3.9225; the Council on Asian-
21 Pacific Minnesotans under section 3.9226; the American Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council
22 under section 260.835; counties; and tribal governments, shall develop and implement a
23 comprehensive, coordinated plan to award funds under this section for the priority areas
24 identified in subdivision 1.

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26 Subd. 3. **Measurable outcomes.** The commissioner, in consultation with the state-community
27 partners listed in subdivision 2, shall establish measurable outcomes to determine the
28 effectiveness of the grants and other activities funded under this section in reducing disparities
29 identified in subdivision 1. The development of measurable outcomes must be completed before
30 any funds are distributed under this section.

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32 Subd. 4. **Process.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the state-community partners listed
33 in subdivision 2, shall develop the criteria and procedures to allocate competitive grants under
34 this section. In developing the criteria, the commissioner shall establish an administrative cost
35 limit for grant recipients. A county awarded a grant shall not spend more than three percent of
36 the grant on administrative costs. When a grant is awarded, the commissioner must provide a
37 grant recipient with information on the outcomes established according to subdivision 3.

38 (b) A grant recipient must coordinate its activities with other entities receiving funds under this
39 section that are in the grant recipient's service area.

40 (c) Grant funds must not be used to supplant any state or federal funds received for child welfare
41 services.

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43 Subd. 5. **Grant program criteria.** (a) The commissioner shall award competitive grants to
44 eligible applicants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed at reducing disparities in
45 the child welfare system.

1 (b) The commissioner may award up to 20 percent of the funds available as planning grants.
2 Planning grants must be used to address such areas as community assessment, coordination
3 activities, and development of community-supported strategies.

4 (c) Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, faith-based organizations, social
5 service organizations, community nonprofit organizations, counties, and tribal governments.
6 Applicants must submit proposals to the commissioner. A proposal must specify the strategies to
7 be implemented to address one or more of the priority areas in subdivision 1 and must be
8 targeted to achieve the outcomes established according to subdivision 3.

9 (d) The commissioner shall give priority to applicants who demonstrate that their proposed
10 project or initiative:

- 11 (1) is supported by the community the applicant will serve;
- 12 (2) is evidence-based;
- 13 (3) is designed to complement other related community activities;
- 14 (4) utilizes strategies that positively impact priority areas;
- 15 (5) reflects culturally appropriate approaches; or
- 16 (6) will be implemented through or with community-based organizations that reflect the
17 culture of the population to be reached.

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19 Subd. 6. **Evaluation.** (a) Using the outcomes established according to subdivision 3, the
20 commissioner shall conduct a biennial evaluation of the grant program funded under this section.
21 Grant recipients shall cooperate with the commissioner in the evaluation and shall provide the
22 commissioner with the information needed to conduct the evaluation.

23 (b) The commissioner shall consult with the legislative task force on child protection during the
24 evaluation process and shall submit a biennial evaluation report to the task force and to the chairs
25 and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees with
26 jurisdiction over child protection funding.

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28 Subd. 7. **American Indian child welfare projects.** Of the amount appropriated for purposes of
29 this section, the commissioner shall award \$75,000 to each tribe authorized to provide tribal
30 delivery of child welfare services under section 256.01, subdivision 14b. To receive funds under
31 this subdivision, a participating tribe is not required to apply to the commissioner for grant funds.
32 Participating tribes are also eligible for competitive grant funds under this section.