

S.F. No. 402 – Establishing the Community Solutions for Health Child Development Grant Program and Community Solutions Advisory Council (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Mary Kunesh

Prepared by: Christa Danko-Schaller, Senate Counsel (651/296-0539)

Date: February 20, 2023

Section 1. [145.9285] Community solutions for health child development grant program.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. Requires commissioner of health to establish the community solutions for healthy child development grant program.

Subdivision 2. Commissioner’s duties. Requires commissioner to develop request for proposals for the grant program in consultation with the newly created Community Solutions Advisory Council. Requires commissioner to provide outreach, technical assistance, and program development to meet statewide needs. Directs commissioner to work with ethnic councils to develop proposals, develop accountability process, allow grantees access to data, maintain outcomes data, and work with third-party evaluator.

Subdivision 3. Community solutions advisory council; establishment; duties; compensation. Requires commissioner to consult with Center of Health Equity and MDH Maternal and Child Health Section to appoint a twelve-member Community Solutions Advisory Council. Requires various numbers of members representative of diverse communities—African, Latino, Asian-Pacific Islander, Native American—and at least three members to be from outside the seven-county metro area. Members shall be compensated.

Subdivision 4. Eligible grantees. Defines eligible grantees to be those that work with communities of color and Native American communities; are Tribal Nations or Tribal organizations as defined in section 658 of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990; and are focused on supporting healthy child development.

Subdivision 5. Strategic consideration and priority of proposals; eligible populations; grant awards. Requires commissioner to develop request for proposals for health child development grants; proposals must focus on increasing racial equity, reducing health disparities experienced by children of color, and healthy child development for children prenatal to grade 3 and their families. Requires commissioner to be strategic in awarding

grants to organizations led by people of color and Native Americans as well as organizations that serve those communities. Requires commissioner to consider organizations serving or located in counties that are moderate to high risk according to the Wilder Research Risk and Reach Report. Requires commissioner to give priority to proposals focusing on healthy development from prenatal to grade 3.

Subdivision 6. Geographic distribution of grants. Requires commissioner and advisory council, to the extent possible, to award grants to organizations within counties that have a higher proportion of people of color and Native Americans than the state average.

Subdivision 7. Reports. Grantees must report program outcomes to commission on the forms and via timelines established by the commissioner.

Section 2. Appropriation; community solutions for healthy child development grant program. Appropriates from the general fund \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2025.