

Community, Early Childhood, and Adult Education Programs

This information brief provides an overview of the programs administered by the Minnesota Departments of Education and Human Services that are under the jurisdiction of the House Early Childhood Learning Finance Division. These programs provide a broad array of services including early childhood education, health, child care, and adult education. Some of the specific programs included in this information brief are: community education, early childhood family education, health and developmental screening, school readiness, head start, school-age care, after-school community learning grants, adult basic education, adult literacy grants, pre-kindergarten exploratory projects, child care assistance programs, child care services grants, and child care licensing.

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*Emily Adriaens, Fiscal Analyst in the House Fiscal Analysis Department, provided information related to program appropriations and formulas.

Community Education Programs

Community Education

Community education programs are intended to maximize the community's use of public schools and to expand the involvement of community members who have skills and knowledge to share. Districts establishing a community education program must provide for a citizens' advisory council to advise the school administration on how best to use school facilities and community resources. Fees may be charged for community education programs.

Districts with a community education program may also prepare a youth development plan to improve coordination of agencies that address the needs and develop the resources of youth in the community. A participating district may also offer a youth service program to provide meaningful opportunities for community involvement and citizenship.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.18-124D.21)

Community Education Revenue. Community education programs are funded through both aid and levy. Districts that prepare a youth service program and a youth development plan are eligible for additional revenue. Districts that establish youth after-school enrichment programs are authorized to levy an additional amount.

For fiscal year 2007 and later, the basic community education revenue is based on an allowance of \$5.42. Community education revenue, aid, and levy for fiscal year 2007 are computed as follows:

Total Community Education Revenue	=	General Community Education Revenue	+	Youth Service Revenue	+	Youth After-School Enrichment Revenue
General Community Education Revenue	=	\$5.42, times the greater of: (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district				
Youth Service Revenue	=	\$1.00, times the greater of (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district				
Youth After-School Enrichment Revenue	=	(1) \$1.85, times the greater of: (a) 1,335; or (b) population of the district not to exceed 10,000; <i>plus</i> (2) \$0.43, times the population of the district in excess of 10,000				
Community Education Levy	=	.900 times ANTC				
Community Education Aid	=	Total Community Education Revenue	-	Community Education Levy		

The amount of community education aid a district receives is reduced for any district that levies less than the maximum for community education, in proportion to the amount of the underlevy.

The 2003 Legislature placed a limit on community education reserves. Beginning in fiscal year 2003, the average revenue in a district's community education accounts is limited to the district's community education revenue for the previous year. A district facing unique circumstances may request a waiver from this reserve balance limitation.

Community Education Revenue

School Year	Tax Rate	Basic Community Education Revenue per Capita	Youth Service Revenue per Capita	After-School Enrichment Revenue per Capita*	Minimum Revenue per District	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Participating Districts
2007-08	.900%	\$5.42	\$1.00	1.85 + 0.43	\$11,040	\$1,307,000	\$37,085,000	338/340
2006-07	.900	5.42	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,040	1,942,000	36,385,000	341/343
2005-06	.981	5.23	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	10,787	2,043,000	35,000,000	341/343
2004-05	.981	5.23	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	10,787	3,198,000	33,715,000	341/343
2003-04	.7431	5.95	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,748	5,357,000	33,640,000	341/343
2002-03	.7431	5.95	1.00	1.85 + 0.43	11,748	6,076,000	31,245,000	342/343
2001-02	.4795	5.95	1.00	0	9,278	14,194,000	19,218,213	342/343

*After-school enrichment revenue per capita equals \$1.85 times the districts first 10,000 residents plus 43 cents per capita for each resident in excess of 10,000.

House Research Department

Early Childhood Education Programs

Early Childhood Family Education

Districts that provide community education programs may also establish early childhood family education programs (ECFE) for children from birth to kindergarten, for their parents, and for expectant parents. These programs include parent education to promote children's learning and development. All ECFE programming must require substantial parental involvement.

Districts must appoint an advisory council to assist in planning and implementing ECFE programs. Districts are encouraged to coordinate ECFE programs with their special education and vocational education programs, as well as with other public or nonprofit agencies providing similar services.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.135)

Early Childhood Family Education Revenue. ECFE programs are funded through state aid, local levy, and participant fees. The formula for calculating ECFE revenue is based on the district's population of young children (under the age of five), not the number of children actually served.

For fiscal year 2008 and later, the ECFE allowance is increased to \$120. Calculations for ECFE aid, levy, and revenue are as follows:

ECFE Revenue	=	\$120, times the greater of: (a) 150; or (b) number of district residents under 5 years old
ECFE Levy	=	the commissioner must establish a tax rate for ECFE revenue that, when multiplied by each district's adjusted net tax capacity, raises \$22,135,000 statewide
ECFE Aid	=	ECFE Revenue - ECFE Levy
Home-visiting Levy	=	\$1.60 times the number of district residents under 5 years old

The amount of ECFE aid is reduced for any district that levies less than the maximum early childhood levy allowed to the district, in proportion to the amount of the underlevy.

Beginning in fiscal year 2000, districts were required to charge fees for ECFE programs, but may waive fees for participants who are unable to pay. Districts may also obtain funds from other sources to support early childhood programs. Districts must maintain ECFE funds in a separate account.

The 2001 Legislature placed a limit on the amount of ECFE reserves. Beginning in 2003, the average revenue in a district's ECFE reserve account over the prior three years is limited to 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior year. A district's ECFE revenue will be reduced by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district's ECFE revenue for the prior three years. Districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of this limit due to extenuating circumstances may obtain prior written approval from the Department of Education to exceed the limit.

Early Childhood Family Education Revenue

School Year	ECFE Tax Rate	ECFE Formula Allowance	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Participating Districts
2007-08	.3824%	\$120.00	\$21,092,000	\$22,135,000	335/340
2006-07	.42725	112.00	17,639,000	22,135,000	337/340
2005-06	.4852	104.00	15,105,000	22,130,000	337/343
2004-05	.533	96.00	15,129,000	21,104,000	337/343
2003-04	.588	120.00	19,675,000	22,209,000	337/343
2002-03	.6578	120.00	18,664,000	22,084,000	337/343
2001-02	.5257	120.00	20,746,000	21,027,000	338/343

House Research Department

Early Childhood Home-visiting Program. A school district participating in a collaborative agreement to provide education services and social services through home-visiting programs may levy up to \$1.60 times the number of people under the age of five residing in the district. Statewide, this levy amounts to about \$550,000 per year.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.14)

State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care

The 2008 Legislature changed the membership of the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care by adding four members of the legislature and two parents with a child under age six to the council. The council’s duties include fulfilling the duties required under the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, making recommendations on the most efficient and effective way to leverage state and federal funding streams for early childhood and child care programs, making recommendations on how to coordinate and collocate early childhood and child care programs in one State Office of Early Learning, and reviewing program evaluations regarding high-quality early childhood programs. The council may use up to \$12,500 from federal child care and development funds, and up to \$12,500 from prekindergarten exploratory project funds to reimburse parents on the council and to pay for technical assistance and administrative costs.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.141)

Health Programs

Health and Developmental Screening

School districts are required to provide developmental screening for children before they start school, targeting children who are between three and five years old. A screening program must include:

- ▶ A developmental assessment;
- ▶ A hearing and vision screening or referral;
- ▶ An immunization review and referral;
- ▶ Child's height and weight; and
- ▶ An identification of risk factors that may influence learning and referral.

Optional screening components include:

- ▶ Nutritional, physical, and dental assessments;
- ▶ Review of family circumstances that affect development; and
- ▶ Laboratory tests, blood tests, and health history.

All students must be screened prior to enrollment in a public school unless the child's parent provides a signed statement of conscientiously held beliefs against screening. A student may be screened by a school district, a public or private health care provider, or an individual health care provider.

A school district receives \$75 for each three-year-old screened, \$50 for each four-year-old screened, and \$40 for each five-year-old screened. The district may transfer money from the general fund to make up the difference between state aid and the cost of the program.

([Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.16-121A.19](#))

Developmental Screening Aid

Fiscal Year	Appropriations
2009	\$3,592,000
2008	2,624,000
2007	2,880,000
2006	3,000,000
2005	2,776,000
2004	2,213,000
2003	2,209,000
2002	2,596,000

House Research Department

Lead Abatement Program

The lead abatement program provides for a swab team services program, which may make demonstration and training grants to eligible organizations to train workers to provide swab team services and swab team services for residential property. Grants must be awarded to help ensure full-time employment to workers providing swab team services and must be awarded for a two-year period. Grants may be awarded to nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to ensure consistency within the statewide program.

Priority for grants is given to community action agencies in greater Minnesota and to either community action agencies or neighborhood based nonprofit organizations in cities of the first class. The priority for swab teams created by the grants is work assigned by the Commissioner of Health, or by a health board if so designated by the commissioner.

[\(Minn. Stat. § 144.9512\)](#)

Lead Abatement Program

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$100,000
2008	100,000
2007	100,000
2006	100,000
2005	100,000
2004	100,000
2003	100,000
2002	100,000

House Research Department

School Readiness Programs

School Readiness

A school district or group of school districts may establish a school readiness program to enable children to enter school with the necessary skills and behavior to succeed. A child may participate in a school readiness program if the child is at least three years old and has had a developmental screening. Children under the age of three-and-one-half can be enrolled if the district determines that serving young children makes the program more effective.

Districts may establish a sliding fee for school readiness programs. Fees must be waived for participants who are unable to pay. The state also provides state school readiness aid. Beginning with fiscal year 1998, school readiness aid is calculated as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (1) the number of eligible four-year-olds in the district on October 1 of the previous school year | x | the ratio of 50% of the total aid to the total number of eligible four-year-olds in the state on October 1 of the previous school year; plus |
| (2) the number of students enrolled in the district from families eligible for free and reduced lunch for the second previous school year | x | the ratio of 50% of the total aid to the total number of students in the state eligible for free and reduced lunch for the second previous school year |

Districts must keep school readiness aid in a reserve account within the community service fund.

The 2001 Legislature placed a limit on the amount of school readiness reserves. Beginning in 2003, the average revenue in a district's school readiness reserve account over the prior three

years is limited to 25 percent of the district's school readiness revenue for the prior year. A district's school readiness revenue will be reduced by any amount in excess of an average of 25 percent of the district's school readiness revenue for the prior three years. Districts anticipating a reserve account in excess of this limit due to extenuating circumstances may obtain prior written approval from the Department of Education to exceed the limit.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.15; 124D.16)

School Readiness Aid

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Number of Participating Districts
2009	\$10,095,000	NA
2008	9,987,000	NA
2007	9,087,000	336/340
2006	9,528,000	339/343
2005	9,594,000	339/343
2004	9,536,000	340/343
2003	8,876,000	338/343
2002	10,395,000	341/343

House Research Department

Head Start

Head Start is primarily a federally funded program designed to provide a comprehensive family-oriented program that improves school readiness and social competence of children from low-income families. State funds were first appropriated for Head Start programs in fiscal year 1989.

Head Start funds do not flow to school districts but instead to the community organizations that are the grantees. In Minnesota, the most common type of grantee is a community action program.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 119A.50-119A.53)

Head Start Revenue

Fiscal Year	State Aid	Federal Funds	Number of Grantees
2009	\$20,100,000	\$84,817,000	35
2008	20,100,000	84,745,000	35
2007	19,100,000	83,340,000	35
2006	19,100,000	82,799,000	35
2005	17,100,000	82,811,000	35
2004	16,381,000	79,480,000	35
2003	18,235,000	79,480,000	35
2002	17,955,000	72,890,000	35

House Research Department

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

The legislature appropriates money to the Department of Education to implement a kindergarten readiness assessment, which is based on the department's Kindergarten Readiness Assessment at kindergarten entrance study. The assessment is based on kindergarteners' teachers own assessments of 32 indicators gathered through the course of their interaction with their students over several weeks at the beginning of the school year. The assessment must be representative of incoming kindergarteners.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.162)

Kindergarten Readiness Assessment

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$287,000
2008	287,000
2007	287,000

House Research Department

Pre-kindergarten Exploratory Projects

The 2007 Legislature established three pre-kindergarten exploratory projects to be conducted in partnership with the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation to promote children's school readiness. The three projects are located in St. Paul, Hennepin County, and Blue Earth County. The Minnesota Early Learning Foundation must design and evaluate the exploratory projects.

Parents or legal guardians with incomes less than or equal to 185 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (\$32,560 for a family of three in 2008) are eligible to receive allowances up to \$4,000 per child per year to pay for their children's education in a quality early education program. An allowance must be used during the 12 months following receipt of the allowance by the parent for a child who is age three or four on August 31, to pay for services designed to promote school readiness in a quality early education setting.

A quality early care and education setting in any service or program that (1) receives a quality rating from the Department of Human Services under the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation quality rating system and (2) agrees to accept a pre-kindergarten education allowance to pay for services. For fiscal years 2008 and 2009 only, providers may satisfy the quality rating system requirements by receiving provisional quality rating system approval from either the Department of Human Services or the Department of Education. For 2008 and 2009, Head Start programs meeting Head Start performance standards and accredited child care centers are granted a provisional quality rating.

Providers deemed eligible to receive a pre-kindergarten education allowance may use the allowance to enhance services above the current quality levels, increase the duration of services provided, or expand the number of children to whom services are provided. For fiscal years 2008 and 2009 only, when no quality program is available, an allowance recipient may direct the pre-kindergarten education allowance to a provider or program for school readiness quality improvements that will make the provider or program eligible for a quality rating according to the quality rating system.

(Laws 2007, ch. 147, art. 2, § 62)

Pre-kindergarten Exploratory Projects

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$4,000,000
2008	2,000,000

House Research Department

Child Care Programs

School-age Care

A school district may offer a school-age care program for children in kindergarten through grade six. The program must provide supervised activities during nonschool hours. Programs are primarily funded through participant fees on a sliding fee scale based on family income. This program was formerly called the extended day program. About one-half of the Minnesota's school districts participate in the school-age care program.

Districts with school-age care programs receive school-age care revenue for the additional costs of providing services to children with disabilities or children experiencing temporary family or related problems. For fiscal year 1998 and later, school-age care aid and levy are calculated as follows:

$$\text{School-age Care Revenue} = \text{Program costs approved by the Department of Education}$$

$$\text{School-age Care Levy} = \text{School-age Care Revenue} \times \begin{matrix} \text{the lesser of:} \\ \text{(a) one; or} \\ \text{(b) } \underline{\text{ANTC/pupil units}} \\ \text{\$3,280} \end{matrix}$$

$$\text{School-age Care Aid} = \text{School-age Care Revenue} - \text{School-age Care Levy}$$

School-age Care Program

Fiscal Year	Aid	Levy	Number of Participating Districts*
2009	\$1,000	\$11,792,000	156/340
2008	1,000	10,580,000	156/340
2007	6,000	9,668,000	152/340
2006	17,000	8,893,000	156/343
2005	28,000	8,099,000	155/343
2004	40,000	7,750,000	145/343
2003	94,000	6,646,000	147/343
2002	224,000	5,753,000	145/343

*This column shows the number of districts that levied for the school-age care program. There may be additional districts that offer the program but do not levy for it.

House Research Department

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.13; 124D.22)

After-School Community Learning Programs

The 2007 Legislature created the after-school community learning grant program to provide grants to community or nonprofit organizations, political subdivisions, for-profit or nonprofit child care centers, or school-based programs that serve youth after school or during nonschool hours. After-school community learning programs are expected to increase (1) school connectedness of participants, (2) academic achievement of participating students in one or more core academic areas, (3) the capacity of participants to become productive adults, and (4) prevent truancy from school and prevent juvenile crime. This program is similar to a grant program that

existed several years ago but was repealed. In addition, this program was funded on a one-time only basis.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.2211)

After-School Community Learning Grants

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Number of Grantees
2009	\$2,600,000	21
2008	2,775,000	21

House Research Department

Child Care Assistance

Child care assistance programs subsidize the child care expenses of eligible low-income families. Minnesota administers two child care assistance programs: Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) child care assistance and Basic Sliding Fee (BSF) child care assistance. MFIP child care subsidizes the child care costs of families receiving cash assistance through MFIP and provides child care assistance for eligible families for the first 12 months after the family leaves MFIP cash assistance (transition year child care). BSF child care provides a child care subsidy to low-income working families who are not receiving cash assistance from MFIP.

To be eligible for child care assistance, both parents (or one parent in single-parent households) must participate in an authorized work, education, or training activity, cooperate with child support enforcement, and meet income eligibility guidelines. The maximum income limit to be eligible for child care assistance is 175 percent of the federal poverty guidelines (\$30,800 for a family of three in 2008) at program entry and 250 percent (\$44,000 for a family of three in 2008) or less of the federal poverty guidelines at program exit. The 2007 Legislature directed the Commissioner of Human Services to convert the eligibility requirements from federal poverty guidelines to state median income beginning July 1, 2008.

Children up to age 13 are eligible for child care assistance (up to age 15 for disabled children).

County agencies or their contractors must determine eligibility within 30 days of receiving a request for child care assistance. Direct reimbursement is the only method of receiving child care assistance.

In fiscal year 2008, the estimated average annual subsidy for a family receiving MFIP child care assistance is \$12,738, and the estimated average annual subsidy for a family receiving BSF child care assistance is \$9,921.

Beginning July 1, 2006, the maximum reimbursement rate for child care assistance is increased by 6 percent over the rate established on January 1, 2006, in each county or multicounty region. Every year, the Commissioner of Human Services conducts a survey of rates charged by child

care providers to determine the 75th percentile maximum rates for similar care in a county, multicounty region, or category that the commissioner deems to be similar.

There is a family co-payment requirement based on family size and income. The maximum family co-payment is about 14 percent of gross monthly income. Families with incomes below 75 percent (\$13,200 for a family of three in 2008) of the federal poverty level are exempt from making co-payments.

The child care assistance programs receive funding from a variety of sources, including the federal Child Care Development Fund (CCDF), federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds, the state general fund, the state special revenue fund, and county funds.

During fiscal year 2008, an estimated average of 7,695 families will receive MFIP child care assistance and 10,339 families will receive BSF child care assistance per month.

Not all families who apply for child care assistance receive it. MFIP child care is a forecasted, fully funded program, while BSF child care receives a capped allocation. As of October 31, 2007, there were 3,691 families on the waiting list for BSF child care assistance.

(Minn. Stat. ch. 119B)

Child Care Assistance Programs

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds	County Funds
2009	\$97,022,638	\$97,022,638	\$2,941,235
2008	91,508,717	116,164,614	2,941,235
2007	68,101,998	111,668,420	2,941,235
2006	57,491,499	110,448,941	2,941,235
2005	70,018,581	95,202,988	2,941,235
2004	97,648,786	72,313,494	2,947,000
2003	126,547,993	95,977,854	2,935,116
2002	114,298,762	84,660,918	2,941,235

Notes: There is a transfer of \$9,227,000 in federal CCDF funds in fiscal year 2009 for the Basic Sliding Fee program. There is a transfer of \$950,000 in federal TANF funds in fiscal year 2009 for the MFIP child care program.

House Research Department

Child Care Services Grants

Child care services grants are distributed by the Commissioner of Human Services to the child care resource and referral programs for child care services grants and child care technical

assistance grants. Up to 10 percent of the grant funds may be used by the Department of Human Services for statewide child care development initiatives, training initiatives, collaboration programs, and research and data collection. At least 90 percent of the grant funds may be distributed by the commissioner to the child care resource and referral programs for child care services grants and family child care technical assistance grants based on specified factors, including the number of children under 13 years of age needing child care in the region, the region served by the program, the ratio of children under 13 years of age needing child care to the number of licensed spaces in the region, and the number of licensed child care providers and school-age care programs in the region. Child care resource and referral programs must award child care services grants and family child care technical assistance grants based on the recommendation of the child care regional proposal review committees.

Child care services grants may be awarded for activities such as improving licensed child care facility programs, staff training and development services, interim financing, capacity building, emergency assistance for child care programs, and targeted recruitment initiatives to expand and build the capacity of the child care system and to improve the quality of care provided by legal nonlicensed child care providers. Child care services grants may be awarded to licensed providers, providers in the process of being licensed, corporations or public agencies that develop or provide child care services, school-age care programs, or any combination of the above. A recipient of a child care services grant for facility improvements, interim financing, or staff training and development must provide a 25-percent local match.

Family child care technical assistance grants may be used for activities including, but not limited to, facility improvements, improvements to expand a child care facility or program, toys and equipment, start-up costs, and staff training and development. These grants are limited to \$1,000 per grant. Grants may be awarded to licensed family child care providers or child care providers in the process of becoming licensed. No local match is required for these grants.

(Minn. Stat. § 119B.21)

Child Care Services Grants

Fiscal Year	State Funds	Federal Funds	Number of Grantees
2009	\$1,215,000	\$9,045,000	NA
2008	1,365,000	9,045,000	NA
2007	1,365,000	9,185,000	2,619
2006	1,365,000	8,900,000	2,537
2005	1,164,000	11,150,000	2,349
2004	1,115,000	11,164,000	NA
2003	1,365,000	9,383,000	NA
2002	1,865,000	9,172,000	NA

Early Childhood Professional Development System

The 2007 Legislature funded the early childhood professional development system, which increases the quality and continuum of professional development opportunities for child care practitioners. Funding for this program was provided only for fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

Early Childhood Professional Development

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$500,000
2008	500,000

House Research Department

Child Care Licensing

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of children in child care settings, state law specifies certain requirements for the licensing of child care programs. Both state and local government have a role in child care program licensing. The Department of Human Services issues licenses to all child care programs, conducts licensing inspections and investigates complaints and allegations of licensing violations or child maltreatment in child care centers, and conducts background studies of individuals who have direct contact with children served by licensed child care centers. The local county social services or human services agency performs specified licensing functions for family and group family child care homes, conducts licensing inspections and investigates complaints and allegations of licensing violations or child maltreatment in family and group family child care homes, and conducts background studies of individuals who have direct contact with children served by licensed family and group family child care homes.

There are certain exceptions to the general requirement that child care providers must be licensed. Under these exceptions, certain types of child care are considered to be legal nonlicensed child care, for which a provider does not need a license. Some of the legal nonlicensed child care settings include: services provided to children who are related to the child care provider, services provided to children from a single related family member who is not related to the child care provider, programs operated by a public school for children 33 months or older, recreation programs for children that are operated or approved by a park and recreation board, Head Start nonresidential programs that operate for less than 45 days in a year, and the religious instruction of school-age children.

In addition, all licensed child care providers are mandated reporters under the state's Maltreatment of Minors Act. This means that a child care worker who knows or has reason to believe that a child is being neglected or abused must report the abuse or neglect to the local law enforcement, social services agency, or licensing agency.

([Minn. Stat. ch. 245A](#))

School Readiness Service Agreements

The 2007 Legislature established School Readiness Service Agreements (SRSA) for child care providers who apply to the Commissioner of Human Services, meet certain criteria, and perform services that support school readiness for children and economic stability for parents. The SRSAs allow the commissioner to pay higher child care provider reimbursement rates to up to 50 child care providers that represent diverse parts of the state and a variety of child care delivery models.

A child care provider who has a service agreement with the commissioner will be paid a higher reimbursement rate for eligible families served by that provider. Eligible families must be eligible to receive child care assistance, be in an authorized activity for an average of at least 35 hours per week when initial eligibility is determined, and include a child who has not yet entered kindergarten.

Entering into a service agreement does not guarantee that a provider will receive payment at a higher rate for families receiving child care assistance. An eligible family must choose a provider participating in an SRSA in order for the higher rate to be paid. Payments through SRSAs are also limited by the availability of SRSA funds.

(Minn. Stat. § 119B.231)

School Readiness Service Agreements

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$500,000
2008	500,000

House Research Department

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Grant Program

The 2007 Legislature established a family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) grant program to promote children's early literacy, healthy development, school readiness, and to foster community partnerships to promote children's school readiness. Grants must be used by community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes working with FFN caregivers in local communities, cultural communities, and Indian tribes to:

- Provide training, support, and resources to FFN caregivers in order to improve and promote children's health, safety, nutrition, and school readiness;
- Connect FFN caregivers and children's families with appropriate community resources that support the families' health, mental health, economic, and developmental needs
- Connect FFN caregivers and children's families to early childhood screening programs and facilitate referrals where appropriate;

- Provide FFN caregivers and children’s families with information about early learning guidelines;
- Provide FFN caregivers and children’s families with information about becoming a licensed family child care provider; and
- Provide FFN caregivers and children’s families with information about early learning allowances and enrollment opportunities in high quality community-based child care and preschool programs.

Grants may also be used for the following:

- Health and safety and early learning kits for FFN caregivers
- Play-and-learn groups with FFN caregivers
- Culturally appropriate early childhood training for FFN caregivers
- Transportation for FFN caregivers and children’s families to school readiness and other early childhood training activities
- Other activities that promote school readiness
- Data collection and evaluation
- Staff outreach and outreach activities
- Translation needs
- Administrative costs up to 12 percent of a recipient’s grant award

Grants must also be used to fund partnerships among Minnesota public and regional library systems, community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and Indian tribes to implement early literacy programs in low-income communities.

(Minn. Stat. § 119B.232)

Family, Friend, and Neighbor Grant Program

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Number of Grantees
2009	\$375,000	6
2008	375,000	6

House Research Department

Adult Education Programs

Programs for Adults with Disabilities

Districts may offer programs for adults with disabilities as part of their community education programs. These programs may include outreach activities to identify adults needing service, classes specifically for adults with disabilities, services enabling the adults to participate in community education, and activities to increase public awareness and enhance the role of people with disabilities in the community. To be eligible for adults with disabilities program revenue, the program description and budget must be approved by the Department of Education.

State aid is provided to districts with approval for educational programs for adults with disabilities. State aid is equal to the lesser of \$30,000 or one-half of the actual program expenditures. The remainder of a district's program revenue is composed of funds from other public or private sources, or an optional levy not to exceed \$30,000 or one-half of the approved program budget.

The aid appropriations for fiscal years 1998 to 2003 included funding for new adults with disabilities pilot projects to be located in areas of Minnesota without a program. The pilot sites were given no levy authority to levy for the program.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.19, subs. 7, 8; 124D.56)

Programs for Adults With Disabilities

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Levy	Number of Programs
2009	\$710,000	\$670,000	77
2008	710,000	670,000	77
2007	710,000	670,000	77
2006	750,000	670,000	77
2005	741,000	670,000	77
2004	688,000	643,000	77
2003	656,000	669,000	77
2002	631,000	669,000	77

Adult Basic Education

Adult basic education (ABE) programs provide academic instruction for persons over age 16 who do not attend school. The purpose of the instruction is to enable students to obtain high school diplomas or equivalency certificates.

The Commissioner of Education must approve a district's ABE program. The commissioner may also contract with private nonprofit organizations to provide these programs. Programs work in administrative units called ABE consortia. Local ABE consortia decide where to set up ABE delivery sites. Currently, there are over 500 delivery sites administered by 53 consortia that annually serve over 75,000 students.

A district or an organization offering an ABE program may charge a sliding fee to program participants.

School districts may use funds from the community education levy and state community education aid for ABE programs. In addition, ABE programs are funded with state aid and federal funds. The total amount from all sources cannot exceed the actual cost of providing adult education programs.

The state also reimburses testing centers for 60 percent of the cost of administering general education development (GED) tests, up to a maximum of \$40 per individual. GED tests, which qualify students for a high school equivalency certificate, are available to Minnesota residents over age 19 whether or not they have taken a refresher course.

(Minn. Stat. §§ 124D.52; 124D.53; 124D.531; 124D.55)

Adult Basic Education Revenue. The 2000 Legislature established a new ABE funding formula beginning with revenue for fiscal year 2001. The 2003 Legislature modified the program. The new formula is based on contact hours, population, the enrollment of students with limited English proficiency, and the number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in a district. The new formula caps the growth of state total ABE aid by setting in statute an overall revenue limit. For fiscal years 2008 and later, the cap is \$40,650,000. The program also caps an individual program's growth at not more than 8 percent each year. Additionally, there is a cap on total program revenue. For each individual program, the total adult basic aid must not exceed \$22 per prior year contact hour.

Prior to the change, ABE funding was based on full-time equivalent students (FTE). An FTE was equal to 408 contact hours for a student at the adult secondary instructional level and 240 contact hours for either a student at a lower instructional level or an English as a second language student. Until fiscal year 2000, local levies had been an additional method to provide funding for ABE programs. In addition, ABE programs were eligible for additional aid if their aid amount was less than in 1992. In fiscal year 2000, the additional amount was equal to 60 percent of the difference between the formula aid in fiscal year 1997 and fiscal year 2000. However, the FTE formula, basic population aid, and aid guarantee were all replaced by the 2000 Legislature with the new ABE formula.

Beginning in 2008, state aid to ABE programs is equal to:

State Total ABE Aid	=	\$40,650,000
ABE Basic Population Aid	=	the greater of: (1) \$3,844; or (2) \$1.73 times the population of the district
Remaining ABE Revenue	=	State Total ABE Aid – ABE Basic Population Aid
ABE Program Revenue	=	(1) ABE Basic Population Aid; plus (2) 84% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of contact hours for students participating in the program during the first prior program year to the state total contact hours during the first prior program year; plus (3) 8% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of the enrollment of students with limited English proficiency during the second prior program year to the state total enrollment of students with limited English proficiency during the second prior program year; plus (4) 8% times Remaining ABE Revenue, times the ratio of the latest federal census count of the number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in the district during the current program year to the state total number of adults age 20 or older with no diploma residing in all participating districts

Beginning in fiscal year 2002, 2 percent of state total ABE aid must be set aside for ABE supplemental service grants.

Each recipient's ABE aid must be proportionately reduced if the appropriation is insufficient to meet the formula amounts.

Adult Basic Education Programs

Fiscal Year	Appropriations	Number of Consortia
2009	\$41,712,000	53
2008	40,344,000	53
2007	37,486,000	53
2006	36,518,000	53
2005	37,444,000	53
2004	32,949,000	53
2003	30,112,000	53
2002	31,952,000	53

House Research Department

Hearing Impaired Adults

The Department of Education coordinates and funds support services for hearing impaired persons to assure access to educational opportunities. Services are provided to adult students who are hearing impaired and (1) have been denied access to educational opportunities because of the lack of support services, (2) are presently enrolled, or (3) are contemplating enrollment in an educational program and would benefit from support services.

School districts or public or private community agencies may receive funding for interpreter services to provide translation for an individual or group of students or note-taker services to convert spoken language to written language when the student must maintain visual contact with other persons such as an interpreter or instructor. Support services may be provided for local school district adult education programs, adult technical college programs, and avocational education programs sponsored by public or private community agencies.

(Minn. Stat. § 124D.57)

Hearing Impaired Adults

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$70,000
2008	70,000
2007	70,000
2006	70,000
2005	70,000
2004	70,000
2003	70,000
2002	70,000

House Research Department

Adult Literacy Grants for Recent Immigrants to Minnesota

The adult literacy grant program for recent immigrants to Minnesota is a temporary program for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 only. It was created to meet the English language needs of the unanticipated refugees and immigrants to Minnesota. The Department of Education awards grants to organizations providing adult literacy services in order to help offset the additional costs due to unanticipated high enrollments of recent refugees and immigrants.

([Laws 2006, ch. 282](#), art. 2, § 26)

Adult Literacy Grants for Recent Immigrants to Minnesota

Fiscal Year	Appropriation	Number of Grants
2008	\$1,250,000	53
2007	1,250,000	53

House Research Department

Miscellaneous Programs

Educate Parents Partnership

The educate parents partnership allows the Department of Education to work in partnership with health care providers and community organizations to provide parent information to parents of newborns at the time of birth. The Department of Education may coordinate the partnership and the distribution of informational material to the parents of newborns before they leave the hospital with early childhood organizations, including, but not limited to, ECFE, child care resource and referral programs, and interagency early intervention committees.

([Minn. Stat. § 124D.129](#))

Educate Parents Partnership

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
2009	\$50,000
2008	50,000
2007	80,000

House Research Department

For more information about education programs, visit the community education area of our web site, www.house.mn/hrd/issinfo/ed_early.htm.