



October 15th, 2021

Senator Michelle Benson, Chair
Senate Health & Human Services Finance and Policy
Committee
3109 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
House Health & Human Services Finance Committee
477 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Jim Ablner, Chair
Senate Human Services Reform Finance & Policy
Committee
3215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jennifer Schultz, Chair
House Human Services Finance and Policy
Committee
473 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator John Hoffman, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy
Committee
22235 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

Rep. Joe Schomacker, Ranking Minority Member
House Health Finance and Policy Committee
209 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Ranking Minority Member
Senate Health & Human Services Finance and Policy
Committee
2227 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Tony Albright, Ranking Minority Member
House Human Services Finance and Policy
Committee
259 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, Article 1, Section 6, appropriates funding for Emergency Services Grants. This letter meets the reporting requirements in the bill. Below is text from the law:

(a) \$26,537,000 in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for emergency services grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.36. Of this amount:

(1) \$15,206,000 is for providing additional shelter space; for purchasing vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room; or for funding other housing options, in order to provide housing that promotes health and safety, or to isolate homeless individuals exposed to COVID-19 or who are experiencing respiratory illness. Vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room may not be issued to motels or hotels that receive funding from another source for the cost of the same motel or hotel room for the same date;

(2) \$5,000,000 is for purchasing hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies to support compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on sanitation and personal protective equipment; and

(3) \$6,331,000 is for hiring staff necessary to protect the health and wellness of program recipients, for increasing the number of persons served, or for providing staffing when workers are quarantined or cannot work because they are caring for someone with COVID-19.

(b) The commissioner may transfer funds among the activities in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), as the commissioner determines necessary. *The commissioner must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over human services on any transfer of funds among the activities in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), and whether grant applicants are requesting funds for activities other than those listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3).*

Below is a description of the allocation of the grants:

	Shelter Capacity	Hygiene/Sanitation	Staffing
TOTAL DISTRIBUTED by Activity (as of June 30, 2021)	\$15,600,000	\$1,350,000	\$9,300,000
TOTAL ALLOCATED by Activity (in legislation)	\$15,206,000	\$5,000,000	\$6,331,000
	Total distributions for this activity were slightly higher than the amount allocated in the legislation.	Total distributions for this activity were considerably less than that amount allocated. Grantees had other sources of revenues to pay hygiene/sanitation and greater needs for staffing and actual shelter capacity.	Total distributions for this activity were higher than the amount allocated in the legislation. The need for staffing support (including hazard pay to keep staff coming to work, paying staff to replace lost volunteer hours, and for additional staff to work in hotels that have been used as shelter) has been greater than anticipated.
No funds have been disbursed for activities outside the three buckets above.			

Please contact me with any questions regarding the information in this letter.

Sincerely,

David Greeman

Dave Greeman, Director
Budget Analysis Division

CC: Dennis Albrecht, Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis

Doug Berg, House Fiscal Analysis

Josh Riesen, MMB

Peter Butler, MMB