

January 16, 2026

Senator Tou Xiong, Chair
Senator Andrew Lang, Ranking Member
State and Local Government Committee

Representative Jim Nash, Co-chair
Representative Ginny Klevorn, Co-chair
State Government Finance and Policy
Committee

SENT VIA EMAIL

Subject: 2025 Accommodation Reimbursement Fund Report

Dear Legislators,

The attached report is submitted by the Department of Administration in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §16B.4805, Subdivision 6. The report details the reimbursement of state agencies for the cost of expenses incurred in making reasonable disability accommodations for employees that occurred in fiscal year 2025.

Please contact Julie Bayerl, julie.bayerl@state.mn.us, if you have any questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Tamar Gronvall
Commissioner

Attachment

cc: Legislative Reference Library

Accommodation Reimbursement Fund

Fiscal Year 2025

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Upon request, this document will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille, or audio recording.

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Introduction

This annual report on the State's Accommodation Reimbursement Fund is mandated under [Minnesota Statutes, Section 16B.4805, Subd. 6](#).

Background

The State of Minnesota recognizes the significant contribution workers with disabilities make to keep the state competitive in a global economy. To remain competitive, the State must aggressively pursue new and inclusive recruitment strategies to both prepare for the rapidly approaching workforce shortage, and ensure a state government that reflects the people it serves. However, workers with disabilities remain an underutilized resource. According to the American Community Survey data for 2017-2021 (5-year estimates) the unemployment rate for Civilian noninstitutionalized Minnesotan's with disabilities between the ages of 18-64 is 33.65%, versus the unemployment rate of 3.7% for Minnesotan's ages 18-64 with no disability.¹

Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB), in collaboration with the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, & Hard of Hearing Minnesotans (MNCDHH) submitted a report to the Legislature in 2015, noting that:

Several studies have cited a centralized reasonable accommodation fund as a best practice for hiring individuals with disabilities. Specifically, it can reduce the unconscious or conscious bias a hiring manager may experience when considering an applicant with a disability and the associated costs of workplace accommodations. This bias has been shown to potentially deter a manager from hiring an individual with a disability.²

Subsequent to this report, legislation was enacted to establish a fund to reimburse state agencies for qualifying reasonable accommodation expenses to better support the hiring and retention of workers with disabilities.

Accommodation Fund

In 2015 the legislature established the accommodation fund at the Department of Administration for the purpose of reimbursing state agencies (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.011, subd. 12) for reasonable accommodation expenses in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.4805, subd. 6.

In 2017, the statute was amended to allow the Commissioner of Administration to reimburse state agencies up to 50 percent of the cost of expenses incurred in making reasonable accommodations. In 2023, the legislature reduced the minimum amount that could be reimbursed from \$1,000 to \$500 to allow more one-time accommodations to be eligible.

The goal of the accommodation fund is twofold:

¹ American Community Survey table S1811, Minnesota and U.S., 2017-2021 5 year estimates

² (2015, February 26). *Centralized Reasonable Accommodation Fund Study* - Minnesota.... Retrieved January 12, 2017, from <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2015/mandated/150351.pdf>

1. To provide an equal footing for job applicants with disabilities during the hiring process, in support of Executive Order 19-14; and,
2. To provide for a more inclusive workplace environment for current state employees with disabilities.

The three types of accommodation expenses eligible for reimbursement are:

1. For **applicants for employment** in any amount;
2. For **current employees** for services that are needed on a periodic or ongoing basis; and
3. For **current employees** for one-time expenses that total more than \$500 for a single employee in a fiscal year

Since its establishment in 2015, Admin has distributed approximately \$1.6 million in reimbursement to agencies for accommodations.

Implementation

The Accommodation Fund is administered by the Department of Administration's STAR (System of Technology to Achieve Results) program. STAR is federally-funded and provides assistive technology services to help Minnesotans with disabilities of all ages increase their independence at home, school, work, and in their communities.

Eligibility

Eighty executive branch agencies, boards, councils, and commissions are eligible to submit requests for reimbursement of reasonable accommodations subject to established eligibility requirements.

Reimbursement requests may only be submitted for state employees and job applicants. Reasonable accommodations provided on behalf of board members, unpaid student workers, interns, and volunteers do not qualify for reimbursement.

2025 Summary

Reimbursement Requests

Agency Requests – Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25)

During FY25, fourteen agencies **requested** reasonable accommodation expense reimbursements totaling \$553,974.15. The following breakdown is provided by agency.

Table 1: FY25 Agency Accommodation Reimbursement Requests

Agency	Amount Requested
Administration	\$1,638.87
Cannabis Management	\$30,953.95
Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing	\$89,677.55
Employment and Economic Development	\$126,759.25
Health	\$27,449.58
Housing and Finance	\$7,895.25
Human Rights	\$3,829.91
Human Services	\$80,225.38
Information Technology Services	\$77,827.74
MNSure	\$28,602.50
Natural Resources	\$30,529.19
Public Safety	\$27,866.15
Revenue	\$13,512.12
Veteran Affairs	\$7,206.71
Total	\$553,974.15

Approved Requests – FY25

The Accommodation Fund approved and reimbursed 217 requests submitted by state agencies.

Number of Approved Reimbursement by Functional Need in FY25

A number of applicants identify with multiple disabilities, so the total approved is more than the number of applications submitted.

- Vision (10)
- Learning/Cognition (3)
- Hearing (185)
- Physical/Mobility (23)
- Speech (5)

Number of Reimbursements Approved by Accommodation Type in FY25

- One-time expenses for a state employee that total more than \$500 in a fiscal year (28)
- Periodic or ongoing services for a state employee (176)
- Combination periodic services/one-time expense in fiscal year for a state employee (10)

- Applicants for state employment (3)

Recipients (Applicants/Employees)

Of the 217 requests made during FY25:

- 214 requests were for state employees
- 3 requests were for a job applicant. None of the three were hired.

Agency Reimbursements Received – FY25

Each fiscal year, \$170,000 is allotted for accommodation reimbursements. Any funds that are not spent, carryover for use in future fiscal years. The agencies listed below **received** a total of \$191,634.88 during FY25, which depleted the current year appropriation and required Admin to use carryover funds for the first time:

Table 2: FY25 Agency Accommodation Reimbursements

Agency	Amount Reimbursed
Administration	\$632.01
Commission of the Deaf, Deafblind & Hard of Hearing	\$24,688.83
Employment and Economic Development	\$46,819.70
Health	\$12,059.65
Housing and Finance	\$2,765.73
Human Rights	\$1,914.96
Human Services	\$27,385.43
Information Technology Services	\$28,989.60
MNSure	\$9,902.00
Natural Resources	\$9,904.99
Office of Cannabis Management	\$7,738.49
Public Safety	\$9,667.76
Revenue	\$6,518.01
Veteran Affairs	\$2,647.72
Total	\$191,634.88