



Date: December 17, 2020

To: Legislative Advisory Commission Members

Senator Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader

Senator Julie Rosen, Chair
Finance Committee

Senator Jim Abeler, Chair
Human Services Reform Finance and Policy
Committee

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

Representative Lyndon Carlson, Sr., Chair
Ways and Means Committee

Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Health and Human Services Finance Division

From: Jim Schowalter, Secretary Legislative Advisory Commission

Subject: URGENT REVIEW | #94 Coronavirus Relief Fund Request to Legislative Advisory Commission

This is a request to spend federal dollars received through the CARES Act as part of the Coronavirus Relief Fund for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This request is submitted under M.S. 3.3005 subd. 4 and 5, which allows for a 10-day review.

Attached are the details of the federal fund review request. Details about this request was shared in a briefing for the Legislative COVID-19 Response Commission members and the chairs of the relevant House and Senate Finance Committees on December 17, 2020.

Federal Fund Review Request

FY 2021

94. Disability Services Providers Public Health Grants (Human Services)

\$392,091

PROCEDURE FOR LAC REVIEW:

The six LAC members have until Monday, December 28, 2020 to provide a recommendation. To expedite the LAC review process, LAC members may respond to this review request directly, recommending their approval or request for further review, instead of waiting the 10-day period.

CC: Bill Marx, House Chief Fiscal Analyst
Eric Nauman, Senate Lead Fiscal Analyst
Nancy Conley, House Ways and Means Committee Administrator
Jessica Young, Senate Finance Committee Administrator

Coronavirus Relief / Health Care Response / COVID-19 Minnesota Funds Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Department of Human Services / Natasha Merz, Disability Services Division Director

Title of Request: Disability Services Providers Public Health Grants

Date: 12/16/2020 **Request Amount:** \$ 392,091

Expenditure Time Period: 3/1/2020 to 12/30/2020

Request Funding Source:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (if selected complete page 2)
- Health Care Response Fund
- COVID-19 Minnesota Fund

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

In August 2020 the Minnesota Legislature appropriated CRF funds for disability services provider COVID-19-related public health grants. DHS received 142 applications for the Disability Services Provider Public Health Grants. DHS confirmed eligibility and funded 84 unique providers for \$14.9 million. Two providers appealed the determination of ineligibility for their applications. Based on the federal employer identification numbers (FEIN) they had submitted in their applications DHS was unable to confirm their eligibility and therefore did not fund their requests. When both providers followed up to appeal that determination they each provided a different FEIN that DHS was able to confirm as eligible for the grants. By that time however all of the grant funding had been distributed. DHS is requesting an amount sufficient to fund both of their applications in full.

Achieve Services, Inc. applied for \$200,000 to:

- *Upgrade their wireless system, purchase equipment, software and applications to allow staff to work from home
- *Hire a job developer so their organization can become a vocational rehabilitation vendor
- *Cover transportation costs to get people to and from community employment sites
- *Purchase personal protective equipment, sanitation supplies, and barriers
- *Fund hazard pay and an extended sick leave bank for staff
- *Fund other public health activities related to COVID-19

CHOICE, Inc. applied for \$192,091 to:

- *Expand remote support services to advance supported employment by using technology
- *Purchase iPads, laptops and other electronic equipment to support remote services
- *Develop CONNECT by CHOICE (virtual programming)
- *Conduct 800 hours of CONNECT classes
- *Purchase personal protective equipment
- *Sick leave for staff
- *Fund other public health activities related to COVID-19

Jodi Harpstead

Digitally signed by Jodi Harpstead
Date: 2020.12.16 14:04:08 -06'00'

Department Head Signature

12/16/2020

Date

Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Categories

Medical Expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Costs incurred by public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase treatment capacity, including related construction costs
	<input type="checkbox"/> Testing, including serological testing
	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19 related treatment
Public Health Expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Communication and enforcement of public health orders related to COVID-19.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disinfection of public areas and other facilities, e.g., nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety
	<input type="checkbox"/> Public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenses for quarantining individuals
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact tracing
Payroll Expenses	<input type="checkbox"/> Recovery planning projects or operating a recovery coordination office
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
Compliance with Public Health Measures	<input type="checkbox"/> Food delivery to residents, including, for example, senior citizens and other vulnerable populations, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining state prisons and county jails, including sanitation and the improvement of social distancing measures, to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Care for homeless populations provided to mitigate COVID-19 effects and enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions
Economic Support	<input type="checkbox"/> Provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures
	<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditures related to a state, territorial, local, or tribal government payroll support program.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise
	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitation of livestock depopulation incurred by producers due to supply chain disruption
	<input type="checkbox"/> Programs designed to prevent eviction and assist in preventing homelessness due to COVID-19 public health emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment and training programs for employees that have been furloughed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency
	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency financial assistance to individuals or families directly impacted by loss of income
Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria. If this category is selected, please explain further here:

CRF Fund Request Confirmations

- **Confirm that your CRF funding request meets federal guidance: (1) as a necessary expenditure to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, (2) is not accounted in the current biennial budget and (3) funds will be expended by December 30, 2020.**
- **Confirm that your CRF funding request does NOT include expenses that cover:**
 - The state's share of Medicaid costs
 - Damages covered by insurance
 - Payroll or benefits of employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to COVID-19
 - Costs reimbursed under other federal programs or funding sources
 - Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services
 - Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime
 - Severance pay
 - Government revenue replacement, including provision of assistance to individuals or businesses to meet tax obligations
- **Confirm that your agency will maintain records related to these expenses that will be sufficient to demonstrate that they are in accordance with the requirements of the CARES Act.**
- **Confirm that your agency has the approval of the lead of the selected work group to submit this proposal.**