



Minnesota 2023 Legislative Impacts: Grants Programs, Loans, and other Opportunities for Minnesota Long-Term Care Providers

Introduction: After a year of historic investments in long-term care, learn more about the grant programs and other opportunities from the most recent 2023 Minnesota legislative session. This resource provides more details about the eligibility and funding availability of upcoming grants, loans, workforce development programs, and more opportunities for providers to consider.

How to use this resource: Programs are separated into two categories: 1) *new programs* and 2) *changes to existing programs*.

Each table is also sorted by *provider types* for which providers or settings may be eligible and/or interested in the opportunity. This resource is meant to be a guide—*Please verify with the agency listed for the most current program requirements*.

More to come: LeadingAge Minnesota will share additional updates and communications about these programs as more information becomes available. Look for more information in upcoming Advantage newsletters. For questions, please contact the agency listed.

New Grant Programs, Loans, and other Opportunities:

PROVIDER TYPES	GRANT / PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE	ELIGIBILITY	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
All Setting Types	Drive for 5 Workforce Fund	<p>Overview: This initiative will prepare a workforce to enter five of the most critical occupational categories in the state with high-growth jobs and family-sustaining wages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. caring professions; 2. education; 3. manufacturing; 4. technology; and 5. trades <p>The Drive for 5 Workforce Fund will conduct outreach and provide job skills training, career counseling, case management, and supportive services to create a pipeline of workers who are skilled and prepared to enter high-growth and high-wage employment and begin to address Minnesota's high job vacancy rate.</p>	<p>Funding is available for the following amounts and purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$7,000,000 each year available through a competitive request for proposal process to provide education and training, including: student tutoring and testing support services; training and employment placement; assistance in obtaining industry-specific certifications; career and educational counseling; work experience and internships; and supportive services. • \$2,000,000 each year awarded through competitive grants made to trade associations or chambers of commerce for job placement services. • \$1,000,000 each year to hire, train, and deploy business services representatives in local workforce development areas throughout the state. 	<p>\$10 million in fiscal year 2024</p> <p>\$10 million in fiscal year 2025</p> <p>One-time appropriation</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Employment and Economic Development</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for the initiatives under this new program. For updates, visit DEED Grants and RFPs. LeadingAge Minnesota will be involved with the caring professions initiatives that are supported by this grant.</p>
All Setting Types	Long-Term Services and Supports Workforce Incentive Grants	<p>Overview: Grant program established for long-term services and supports providers and facilities to assist with recruiting and retaining direct support professionals.</p> <p>Allowable uses of grant money include providing payments to eligible workers for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retention, recruitment, and incentive payments; • postsecondary loan and tuition payments; • child care costs; • transportation-related costs; • personal care assistant background study costs; and • other costs associated with retaining and recruiting workers, as approved by the commissioner. 	<p>Eligible employers may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a provider of home and community-based services; • a facility certified as an intermediate care facility for persons with developmental disabilities; • a nursing facility; • a provider of personal care assistance services; • a provider of community first services and supports; • a provider of early intensive developmental and behavioral intervention services; • a provider of home care services; • an eligible financial management services provider serving people through consumer-directed community supports; or • a provider of customized living services <p>Eligible Worker: Worker who earns \$30 per hour or less and is currently employed or recruited to be employed by an eligible employer.</p>	<p>\$83.6 million</p> <p>Eligible workers may receive cumulative payments up to \$1,000 per year from the workforce incentive grant account and all other state money intended for the same purpose.</p> <p>One-time appropriation, available until June 30, 2027.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs.</p>

New Grant Programs, Loans, and other Opportunities, cont.

PROVIDER TYPES	GRANT / PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE	ELIGIBILITY	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
All Setting Types	Minnesota Employer Reasonable Accommodation Fund	<p>Overview: A reasonable accommodation reimbursement grant program that reimburses eligible employers for the cost of expenses incurred in providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with a disability who are either applicants or employees of the eligible employer.</p>	<p>"Eligible employer" means a Minnesota employer who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employs not more than 500 employees on any business day during the preceding calendar year; and generates \$5,000,000 or less in gross annual revenue. <p>Onetime reasonable accommodation expenses must be no less than \$250 and no more than \$15,000 per individual with a disability. Submissions for ongoing expenses have no min. or max. requirements.</p>	<p>\$2,000,000 each fiscal year</p> <p>The maximum reimbursement per employer in a fiscal year is \$30,000.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Employment and Economic Development</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. Applications will be processed on a first-received, first-processed basis, until funding is exhausted. For updates, visit DEED Grants and RFPs.</p>
All Setting Types	New American Legal, Social Services, and Long-Term Care Workforce Grant Program	<p>Overview: A new American legal, social services, and long-term care workforce grant program for organizations that serve and support new Americans:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> in seeking or maintaining legal or citizenship status to legally obtain or retain employment in any field or industry; or to provide specialized services and supports to new Americans to enter the long-term care workforce. <p>"New American" means an individual born abroad and the individual's children, irrespective of immigration status.</p>	<p>Allowable uses of grant money:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment, legal advice, or representation to new Americans to seek or maintain legal or citizenship status for U.S. employment Social and supportive services including housing, food, employment or employment training, education, course fees Employment opportunities including providing career education, wraparound support services, and job skills training in LTC fields Paying for program expenses related to long-term care professions and supportive services to help participants attend classes Repaying student loan debt <p>Eligible Applicants: Must demonstrate the qualifications, legal or other expertise, cultural competency, and experience in working with new Americans.</p>	<p>\$28,316,000</p> <p>One-time appropriation, available until June 30, 2027.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs.</p>
All Setting Types	Workplace Safety Grants for Health Care Entities	<p>Overview: A program to award workplace safety grants to increase safety measures in health care settings and establish or expand programs to train staff in health care settings on de-escalation and positive support services.</p>	<p>Eligible Entities: Long-term care facilities, acute care hospitals that are staffed for 49 beds or less and located in a rural area, critical access hospitals, medical clinics, dental clinics, and community health clinics.</p> <p>Application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the specific safety measures or activities the applicant will use the funding for; a proposed budget for each of the specific activities how the measures will lead to long-term improvements in safety and stability for staff and for patients; and methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the safety measures and changes that will be made if the measures are deemed ineffective. 	<p>\$4.4 million</p> <p>Available through June 30, 2027.</p> <p>A grant award may not exceed \$50,000.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Health</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. For updates, visit MDH Grants.</p>
Assisted Living	Temporary Grant for Small Customized Living Providers	<p>Overview: Temporary grant for customized living providers.</p> <p>Allowable uses of grant money include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical plant updates required for community residential services or integrated community supports licensure, technical assistance to adapt business models and meet policy and regulatory guidance, and other uses approved by the commissioner. for costs incurred directly related to the provider's transition from providing customized living or 24-hour customized living 	<p>Eligible Employers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> customized living providers that serve six or fewer people in a single-family home; community residential service providers and integrated community supports providers who transitioned from providing customized living or 24-hour customized living on or after June 30, 2021. 	<p>\$5.45 million</p> <p>Onetime award of up to \$50,000 per eligible setting. Funds available through June 30, 2024.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. To be considered for grant money, eligible license holders must submit a grant application by June 30, 2024. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs.</p>
Independent Living and Housing	High Rise Sprinkler System Grant Program	<p>Overview: Grants to owners of eligible buildings for installation of sprinkler systems and, if necessary, for relocation of residents during the installation of sprinkler systems.</p> <p>Each grant to a nonprofit organization shall require a 25 percent match. Each grant to a for-profit organization shall require a 50 percent match. Priority shall be given to nonprofit applicants.</p>	<p>"Eligible building" means an existing residential building in which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least one story used for human occupancy is 75 feet or more above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access; and at least two-thirds of its units are affordable to households with an annual income at or below 50% of the area median income, adjusted for family size, that is paying no more than 30% of annual income on rent 	<p>\$10 million</p> <p>The maximum grant per eligible building is \$2,000,000.</p>	<p>Agency Contact: Housing Finance Agency</p> <p>Next Steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. For updates, visit the Housing Finance Agency.</p>



New Grant Programs, Loans, and other Opportunities, cont.

PROVIDER TYPES	GRANT / PROGRAM	NEW PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE	ELIGIBILITY	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
HCBS	Caregiver Respite Services Grants	Overview: Grant program to increase the availability of respite services for family caregivers of people with dementia and older adults and to provide information, education, and training to respite caregivers and volunteers regarding caring for people with dementia.	Eligible use: Grant recipients must use a portion of the grant award as determined by the board to provide free or subsidized respite services for family caregivers of people with dementia and older adults. Priority is given to areas of the state where there is a high need of respite services.	\$1.8 million	Agency contact: Department of Human Services, Minnesota Board on Aging Next steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs .
HCBS	Provider Capacity Grant for Rural and Underserved Communities	Overview: Grants to organizations that provide community-based services to rural or underserved communities. The grants must be used to build organizational capacity to provide home and community-based services in the state and to build new or expanded infrastructure to access medical assistance reimbursement. Allowable grant activities include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> expanding existing services; increasing access in rural or underserved areas; creating new home and community-based organizations; connecting underserved communities to benefits and available services; or building new or expanded infrastructure to access medical assistance reimbursement. 	Eligibility: Organization or provider that serves, or will serve, rural or underserved communities and: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> provides, or will provide, home and community-based services in the state; or serves, or will serve, as a connector for communities to available home and community-based services. Priority will be given to organizations that provide culturally specific and culturally responsive services or that serve historically underserved communities.	\$17,148,000 One-time appropriation, available until June 30, 2027.	Agency contact: Department of Human Services Next steps: Learn more on the Provider Capacity Grant for Rural and Underserved Communities grants page .
Nursing Homes	Nursing Home Workforce Incentive Grants	Overview: Grant program established for nursing homes to assist with recruiting and retaining workers Allowable uses of grant money include providing payments to eligible workers for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> retention, recruitment, and incentive payments; employee-owned benefits, such as health savings accounts, HRSA, and flexible spending accounts; employee contributions to a 401k account; education, professional development, and financial counseling; child care, meals, transportation, and housing; health and wellness; and other flexible needs related to workforce challenges as determined by the commissioner. 	Eligible employer: Nursing homes enrolled in the Medicaid program Eligible worker: Worker who earns \$30 per hour or less and is currently employed or recruited to be employed by an eligible employer.	\$74.5 million Eligible workers may receive cumulative payments up to \$3,000 per year from the grant and all other state money intended for the same purpose. One-time appropriation, available until June 30, 2029.	Agency contact: Department of Human Services Next steps: The department will develop a grant application for this new program. The program may be administered by an outside contractor. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs .
Nursing Homes	Financially Distressed Nursing Facility Loan Program	Overview: New program that creates no interest loans for nursing homes that can be repaid over up to six years. No payments are required for at least 18 months and loans can run up to 72 months. This program creates an option for providers who are struggling to meet bond covenants, bank requirements or make payments on current loans.	Eligibility: Applicants must meet the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the total net income of the nursing facility is not generating sufficient revenue to cover the nursing facility's operating expenses; the nursing facility is at risk of closure; and additional operating revenue is necessary to either preserve access to nursing facility services within the community or support people with complex, high-acuity support needs. 	\$93.2 million Funding is available through June 30, 2029.	Agency contact: Department of Human Services Next steps: The department will develop a loan application for this new program. The department may contract with an outside entity to operate the loan program. For updates, visit DHS Grants and RFPs .
Nursing Homes	Ergonomics Program Establishment Grants	Overview: The Department of Labor and Industry will implement a temporary grant program to provide \$2 million of matching funding to employers subject to the new ergonomic program law who wish to implement recommended ergonomics equipment, safety surveys, and practice improvements.	Eligible employer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be a nursing home, licensed hospital, outpatient surgical center, warehouse distribution center, or meatpacking site. The employer must have current workers' compensation insurance and have had an on-site safety survey that recommended specific equipment or practices to reduce the risk of injury or illness to employee and to prevent musculoskeletal disorders. 	\$2 million Individual employer grant amounts are "matched" up to a maximum of \$10,000 per employer.	Agency contact: Department of Labor and Industry Next steps: The department will develop an application for this new program. Nursing home employers should review their workplace ergonomics and on-site safety surveys for eligibility considerations. For updates, visit DLI Grants .



Minnesota 2023 Legislative Impacts: Changes to Existing Grants and Programs

PROVIDER TYPES	GRANT / PROGRAM	PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE	PROGRAM CHANGES	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
All Setting Types	Age Friendly Community Grants	<p>Overview: Grant program to help communities become age-friendly communities, with an emphasis on structures, services, and community features necessary to support older adult residents over the next decade, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordination of health and social services; • transportation access; • safe, affordable places to live; • reducing social isolation and improving wellness; • combating ageism and racism against older adults; • accessible outdoor space and buildings; • communication and information technology access; and opportunities to stay engaged and economically productive. 	Changes: Extended the timeframe on previously funded Age Friendly Community Grants to March 31, 2027, originally was March 31, 2024.	<p>\$875,000 in fiscal year 2023</p> <p>\$875,000 in fiscal year 2024</p>	<p>Agency contact: Department of Human Services, in collaboration with the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota</p> <p>Next steps: To learn more, visit Age Friendly Grants.</p>
All Setting Types	Health Professional Loan Forgiveness	<p>Overview: The Minnesota Office of Rural Health and Primary Care grants Loan Forgiveness to various health care professionals serving in high-need areas.</p> <p>Annual repayment maximum amount: \$6,000</p>	Changes: Adds nurses working within assisted living facilities licensed under 144G to the list of eligible loan forgiveness recipients.	\$6,740,000 in fiscal year 2024	<p>Agency contact: Department of Health</p> <p>Next steps: The next application cycle will likely open Fall 2023. For more information, visit Health Professional Loan Forgiveness.</p>
All Setting Types	Mental Health Grants for Health Care Professionals	Overview: Grant program established for the purpose of improving the mental health of health care professionals through establishment or expansion of programs that are evidenced-based or evidenced-informed and are focused on addressing the mental health of health care professionals.	<p>Changes to the existing grant program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded the permitted uses of grants to include the identification and modification of structural barriers that create stress in the health care workplace. • Grants can now be extended for a period of an additional 3 years beyond the year in which they are initially funded. • The original appropriation for the grant program has been extended until Jun. 30, 2027. 	<p>\$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2023</p> <p>Onetime appropriation, now available until June 30, 2027.</p>	<p>Agency contact: Minnesota Department of Health</p> <p>Next steps: Learn more about past funding opportunities or future opportunities for this grant.</p>
All Setting Types	Next Generation Nursing Assistant Training Program Initiative (NextGen)	Overview: The Next Generation Nursing Assistant Training Program (NGNA) or the "NextGen" initiative began in 2021 to fund the recruitment and training of students to become certified nursing assistants. The program uses a "free up-front" model for covering the student costs of training, testing, scrubs, and more.	<p>New funding includes: One-time appropriation to continue this program to train additional nurse aides. This funding is given to the Office of Higher Education. Long-term care employers can partner with NextGen training programs to recruit NextGen students to work in their settings.</p> <p>Additional NextGen nursing assistant training classes will likely begin in Sept. 2023 and will run until the end of Dec. 2024. Once scheduled, Minnesota State will post updates and trainings here: NextGen Training Program.</p>	<p>\$3 million</p> <p>Onetime appropriation available until June 30, 2025.</p>	<p>Agency contact: Office of Higher Education, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities - HealthForce</p> <p>Next steps: Additional NextGen training classes will be scheduled soon. To learn more, visit OHE NextGen Training Program. For employer resources to connect with NextGen nurse aides, visit LeadingAge Minnesota NextGen Resources.</p>
HCBS, Assisted Living, Adult Day	HCBS Workforce Development Grant Modifications	<p>Overview: In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature created HCBS workforce development grant program to attract and retain direct care workers who provide home and community-based services for people with disabilities and older adults. This grant supports the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training stipend grants • Retention bonus grants • Employee-owned cooperative grants <p>Eligible workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 90% of the grant funding must go to workers who earn 300% or less of the federal poverty level. • Applicants must be employed as direct care workers at providers HCBS for people with disabilities and older adults. 	<p>Changes to the existing grant program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exempts the grant from being considered income for childcare assistance, Medicaid, and other assistance programs • Allows eligibility for grants up to 300% of the federal poverty line (previously 200%) <p>Employees who receive these grants will no longer have to be concerned about a "benefit cliff" or losing benefits tied to receiving a grant. The expansion to 300% of federal poverty level allows more workers to be eligible for grants.</p>	<p>\$5,588,000 in fiscal year 2023</p> <p>\$5,588,000 in fiscal year 2024</p>	<p>Agency contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next steps: For program information, which workers are eligible, and how to apply, please visit HCBS Workforce Development Grant.</p>



Changes to Existing Grants and Programs, cont.

PROVIDER TYPES	GRANT / PROGRAM	PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE	PROGRAM CHANGES	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	NEXT STEPS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
HCBS, Assisted Living, Adult Day	Live Well at Home Grants	<p>Overview: Grants program created to make strategic changes in the long-term services and supports system for older adults and people with dementia. These projects are intended to create incentives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reach older adults early in the progression of needing long-term services and supports; support older adults to live in the most integrated, least restrictive community setting; support the informal caregivers of older adults; develop and implement strategies to integrate long-term services and supports with health care services; ensure cost-effective use of financial and human resources; build community-based approaches to delivering supports to older adults in their homes; strengthen and develop HCBS and alternatives to nursing homes and other residential services; and strengthen programs that use volunteers. 	<p>Eligibility: The services provided by these projects are available to older adults who are eligible for medical assistance and the elderly waiver, the alternative care program, or the essential community supports grant, and to older adults who have their own money to pay for services.</p> <p>Changes to the program: These grants were expanded to incorporate caregiver support and respite care projects, core home and community-based services projects, and community services grants to provide low-cost high impact services to delay or prevent older adults from having to access more expensive services. The program now also allows for previously successful grantees to apply for additional funding.</p>	\$4.6 million	<p>Agency contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next steps: Learn more about the program at Live Well at Home grants.</p>
Nursing Home	Critical Access Nursing Facility Program	<p>Overview: The Critical Nursing Facility Program was operational for several years prior to the implementation of Value-Based Reimbursement (VBR) in 2016 which made the current version of Critical Access obsolete. Despite its obsolescence, there is a \$1.5 million annual state appropriation that has been going unused.</p>	<p>Changes to the program: The bill revises the program into a form where the funds can be used. The funding will be used to provide rate add-ons to providers who are chosen for critical access status based on the need to preservice services in isolated areas. Nursing homes can apply and if chosen will get a rate add-on for up to two years before they must be re-designated as critical access.</p>	\$500,000 so that \$2 million in state funds are available annually.	<p>Agency contact: Department of Human Services</p> <p>Next steps: Those who are interested should be looking for information from DHS about how to apply for Critical Access status, as well as what criteria will be used to score applications and how much of a rate increase is available. Nursing homes who believe they may qualify for critical access status can apply later this year.</p>