

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; establishing the vehicles for families grant program;
1.3 requiring a report; appropriating money.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **VEHICLES FOR FAMILIES GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of human services shall make grants
1.7 to one or more nonprofit organizations to establish and operate programs under which
1.8 individuals with three or more dependent children under the age of 18 years may obtain
1.9 forgivable loans to purchase motor vehicles. All grants shall be for two years.

1.10 Subd. 2. Qualified grantee. A grantee must:

1.11 (1) qualify under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code; and

1.12 (2) at the time of application have the demonstrated capacity to provide the services
1.13 required under subdivision 3.

1.14 Subd. 3. Program requirements. (a) A program that receives a grant under this section
1.15 shall use the money to establish a fund to make loans to eligible participants for the purchase
1.16 of motor vehicles. Loans made under this section must be forgivable if an eligible participant:

1.17 (1) maintains residency in Minnesota for ten years after accepting a loan; and

1.18 (2) completes the educational courses described in paragraph (c).

1.19 (b) A program establishing loans under this section shall establish the terms and
1.20 conditions for the loans including, but not limited to, interest rates, repayment agreements,
1.21 and terms for loan forgiveness.

2.1 (c) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (a), a program must make available to
2.2 eligible participants, at no cost to the participant, educational courses on car maintenance
2.3 and repair instruction.

2.4 Subd. 4. **Application.** Applications for a grant must be on a form provided by the
2.5 commissioner and on a schedule set by the commissioner. Applications must, in addition
2.6 to any other information required by the commissioner, include:

2.7 (1) a detailed description of services to be offered;

2.8 (2) the area to be served; and

2.9 (3) the estimated number of program participants to be served by the grant.

2.10 Subd. 5. **Participant eligibility.** To be eligible to receive a loan under this section, a
2.11 person must, at the time of application:

2.12 (1) be at least 18 years of age;

2.13 (2) have a valid driver's license;

2.14 (3) provide the grantee with proof of motor vehicle insurance;

2.15 (4) have three or more dependent children under the age of 18 years; and

2.16 (5) have household income at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

2.17 Subd. 6. **Report to legislature.** By February 15, 2025, the commissioner shall submit
2.18 a report to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction
2.19 over human services on program outcomes. At a minimum, the report must include:

2.20 (1) the total number of program participants and the number who have purchased a motor
2.21 vehicle;

2.22 (2) an account of loans made and the program's assets and liabilities; and

2.23 (3) the number of program participants who have completed the educational course on
2.24 car maintenance and repair instruction.

2.25 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; VEHICLES FOR FAMILIES GRANT PROGRAM.**

2.26 \$..... in fiscal year 2024 and \$..... in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the general
2.27 fund to the commissioner of human services for the vehicles for families grant program. Of
2.28 this amount, up to five percent is for administrating and monitoring the program. This is a
2.29 onetime appropriation.