

Subject Dementia grants appropriation

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Date March 27, 2025

Summary

This bill appropriates \$750,000 in each fiscal year of the 2026-2027 biennium from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for regional and local dementia grants administered by the Board on Aging.

The Minnesota Board on Aging is a 25-member board whose members are appointed by the governor. Board staff are provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the board is housed within that agency. One of the duties of the board is to administer programs funded through the federal Older Americans Act (OAA). The board is the agency designated by the state to receive OAA funds for distribution to Area Agencies on Aging.

In fiscal year 2023, the board received about \$31.6 million in federal funds and \$28.6 million in state funds for programs that it administers.

Dementia grants are state-funded competitive grants for regional and local projects and initiatives to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, increase the rate of cognitive testing in the population at risk for dementias, promote the benefits of early diagnosis of dementias, or connect caregivers of persons with dementia to education and resources. Eligible applicants include, but are not limited to, community health boards, school districts, colleges and universities, community clinics, Tribal communities, nonprofit organizations, and other health care organizations.