

## **New Minnesota Legislation to Help Women & Girls of Color\***

[\(2016 Minnesota Session Laws, Chap. 189\)](#)

\*Grants listed in this document are targeted to specific organizations. For grants that will be awarded on a competitive basis, see the document,

[\*Grant Opportunities for Nonprofits that Serve Women & Girls of Color.\*](#)

### ***Helping girls and young women of color succeed academically***

- \$1.5M in FY17<sup>1</sup> to Girls in Action, to continue to provide and to expand Twin Cities' school and community-based programs that encourage and support low-income girls, including low-income girls of color, to graduate from high school on time, complete a postsecondary preparation program, become community leaders, and participate in service learning.
- Expansion of eligibility for child care grants for college students. Previously, only undergraduate students were eligible. This year's legislation expands eligibility to include students in a graduate or professional program.
- In FY17, there will be no charge to Minnesotans taking the GED test.
- \$150,000 in FY17 for a grant to the International Institute of Minnesota (serving refugees and immigrants) to establish a college readiness academy.
- \$150,000 in FY17 to Summit Academy OIC for GED and adult diploma programs leading to entry into career credentialing programs.
- \$880,000 in FY17 and \$250,000 in each succeeding year to American Indian Opportunities and Industrialization center (AIOIC) and Northwest Indian Community Development Center, to reduce educational disparities in the American Indian community.
- \$1.5M in FY17 to the Sanneh Foundation for academic and behavioral interventions for low-performing students, with a focus on low-income students and students of color.
- State-funded voluntary pre-K. A school district or charter school may establish a voluntary pre-kindergarten program. The voluntary pre-K program may contract with community-based organizations or child care centers to deliver the program. Priority for funding these voluntary pre-K programs will be given to high-poverty schools and to areas with a scarcity of quality child care programs. \$18,562,000 is appropriated in FY17 and \$6,843,952 in each succeeding year.
- \$2,350,000 in FY17 and \$350,000 in each succeeding year for the "Parent-Child Home Program"—a home-based literacy and school readiness program for low-income children, ages 16 months to four years. The Parent-Child Home Program is administered by the Dept. of Education.
- \$430,000 in FY17 to a St. Cloud school district, to establish a preschool pilot program targeting low-income students and English learners.

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<sup>1</sup> FY17, or Fiscal Year 2017, is from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

- Additional adult basic education aid for the International Education Center, the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center, and the Minnesota Office of Communication Service for the Deaf. A total of \$400,000 in FY17.

### ***Helping women of color get well-paid jobs***

- \$250,000 in each of FY 17, 18, and 19 for the Dept. of Labor & Industry's apprenticeship program. This program is not specifically for women, but discrimination based on sex is expressly prohibited. Apprenticeship programs in the trades are an excellent path for women to gain skills for high-wage, high-demand occupations.
- Expands existing DEED job training grants for very low-income people. Grants paid to job training programs for graduates that are placed in a job and for graduates that remain in their post-training job for at least one year are increased from \$9,000 to \$11,000 per graduate. Raises income and asset eligibility limits for training participants (income raised from \$11,000 to \$12,000 per year; assets raised from \$7,000 to \$10,000).
- \$1M in FY17 and \$250,000 in each succeeding year to YWCA-St. Paul for job training and workforce development programs.
- \$750,000 in FY17 and \$375,000 in each succeeding year to YWCA-Minneapolis to provide low-income persons with job training and placement in early childhood education careers.
- \$4.25M in FY17 and \$1M in each succeeding year to EMERGE Community Development for job readiness, placement, and support services; and a "general education development fast track and adult diploma program" in Minnesota communities with the highest concentrations of African and African-American unemployment. Primarily serves North Minneapolis and Cedar Riverside areas.
- \$1.2M in FY17 and \$600,000 in each succeeding year to Twin Cities RISE for job training for low income persons. \$407,000 of the FY17 amount is for the Metro Transit Technician training program.
- \$2M in FY17 and \$1M in each succeeding year to the Construction Careers Foundation to educate teens (starting in middle school) and young adults in careers in construction. Priority to teens and young adults that are economically disadvantaged or historically underrepresented in the construction industry, including women, veterans, and members of minority and immigrant groups.
- Hennepin County Career Connections Pathways. As a way to serve people who face barriers to employment or who are underrepresented in the workforce, and to increase diversity, Hennepin County offers employees in certain jobs tuition-free job training and professional support to help them advance their careers. \$2.5M in FY17, with \$300,000 of this amount to be used for a Career Connections Pilot Program in Greater Minnesota.
- \$1.5M in FY17 and \$750,000 in each succeeding year, to CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio) to address employment and education skill gaps for working parents and underserved youth. At least 50% must be targeted to Greater Minnesota.

### ***Helping women and families of color with safe, affordable housing***

- Exploited Families Rental Assistance Pilot Program. \$500,000 in FY17 for grants through the Housing Finance Agency for rental assistance to individuals or families with a minor child who are from emerging communities, are at risk of being homeless, or have been victims of gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, international abusive marriage, or forced marriage).

### ***Helping women of color start and expand small businesses***

- The existing Urban Initiative Program, which gives grants to nonprofits who in turn provide loans to minority-owned businesses in low-income areas in the Twin Cities, is renamed the “Minnesota Emerging Entrepreneur Program,” and will give grants to nonprofits who provide loans to businesses in Greater Minnesota or in low-income areas of the Twin Cities that are owned by minorities, women, veterans, or people with disabilities. \$500,000 is available in FY17 and \$750,000 in each succeeding year. An additional \$375,000 is available in FY17 for the seven-county Twin Cities area.
- \$1.5M in FY17 and \$750,000 in each succeeding year to the Neighborhood Development Center for small business development for immigrants in suburban communities, for outreach and training in Greater Minnesota, and for a small business incubator program.
- \$2.5M in FY 17 and \$1.175M in each succeeding year to the Metropolitan Economic Development Association (MEDA) for statewide business development, with priority to minority-owned businesses and businesses that create jobs for unemployed and underemployed people.
- \$1.75M in FY17 and \$875,000 in each succeeding year to Enterprise Minnesota (a state-funded corporation that provides business development services and products and financial assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturing businesses) for small business development, focusing on Greater Minnesota.
- \$500,000 in FY17 and \$125,000 in each succeeding year to the White Earth Nation for the White Earth Nation Integrated Business Development System.
- State contracts up to \$25,000 for goods, services, or construction may be awarded to small targeted group businesses, small veteran-owned businesses, or small businesses located in an economically disadvantaged area without a competitive bid process. (Targeted group businesses are businesses owned by women, persons with disabilities, or minorities.) The Dept. of Administration may require prime contractors in state contracts for construction or professional or technical services to subcontract part of the contract to a veteran-owned small business or to a small business located in an economically disadvantaged area. (Current law already gives this discretion for small targeted group businesses.) The Dept. of Administration may require specific state contracts for goods or services be awarded only to veteran-owned small businesses or only to small businesses located in an economically disadvantaged area. (Current law already gives this discretion for small targeted group

businesses.) All of the above provisions in this state contracting section also apply to combinations of small targeted group businesses, veteran-owned small businesses or small businesses located in an economically disadvantaged area. Note that a business must be certified by the State of Minnesota as a targeted group business, veteran-owned business, or business in an economically disadvantaged area to be eligible for this new provision.

### ***Other***

- \$500,000 in FY17 and \$500,000 in each succeeding year to Build Wealth MN for a family stabilization program, including financial literacy education and budget and debt counseling. Focus on families with low to moderate incomes in underserved communities.
- Grant to Minneapolis Foundation for North@Work (Northside Funders Group) program: job training & placement for African American men. \$1M in FY17 and \$2M in FY 18-19.
- \$600,000 in FY17 and in each succeeding year to Ujamaa Place, to train young (age 18-30), economically disadvantaged African American men in St. Paul in the construction trades, to provide housing for these men, and to build organizational capacity for Ujamaa Place.
- \$500,000 in FY17 for grants to expand broadband service in areas that have a significant proportion of low-income households.