Expand county support for fraud prevention investigations

Issues:

- Funding for the Fraud Prevention Investigation grant program has been stagnant for a number of years, preventing counties statewide from expanding eligibility fraud investigations, including for cash, food, child care and health care benefits.
- The current grant program provides a total of $3.2 million per fiscal year — $1.9 million in state funds and $1.3 million in federal funding — to regions covering 79 of Minnesota’s 87 counties.
- When human service program benefits are considered, the grant program has returned at least $4 for every $1 spent.

Proposal:

- This proposal increases funding for the Fraud Prevention Investigation grant program by $425,000 per fiscal year, which will be matched by $311,000 in federal funding.
- Total county grant funding will be approximately $3.9 million a year.
- One full-time position will be added to the Office of the Inspector General to assist in grant monitoring and provide training to county staff.

Benefits

- Counties will be able to hire on an estimated seven additional fraud investigators, increasing the number of positions in a county or region, or adding investigators to counties that are not currently participating in the program.
- County technical training and assistance will increase.

Fiscal impact:

- Saves $204,000 FY 2020-21 and $364,000 in FY 2022-23

Related information:


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