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Agency/Point of Contact: Dan Pollock, Assistant Commissioner, Dept. of Human Services (DHS)

Title of Request: 2 month extension of funding for At Risk Populations emergency staffing pool

Date: 1/5/2023 Request Amount: \$ 590,000

Expenditure Time Period: 5/23/2022 to 2/15/2023 (no later than 2/15/2023)

**Brief Summary of Request:** (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

This request amends a previous request for COVID Management funds that was approved on June 15, 2022. This amendment is not requesting additional funding. The only change from the original request is to change the starting of the expenditure time period from July 1, 2022 to May 23, 2022. The amended version permits the COVID Management funds to be used to reimburse emergency staffing pool expenses that were incurred prior to July 1, 2022.

The Governor's At-Risk Populations Work Group requests additional funding for the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) operations of the "Emergency Temporary Staffing Pool." Since September 2020, the emergency staffing pool has made licensed and unlicensed replacement staff available to work temporarily in a variety of group settings facing a staffing emergency of COVID outbreak crisis. This program is authorized to continue by Minnesota Laws 2022, chapter 40 but needs additional funding to continue low-risk environment operations beyond June 30. The Emergency Temporary Staffing Pool is jointly managed by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health (MDH). MDH and DHS employees determine through a triage process, including COVID case data, whether a provider group setting is currently or close to experiencing a staffing crisis that could impact safety and normal operations. Emergency pool staff are deployed to a site, for up to 21-days until the setting can be stabilized. Between March 2022 and June 2022, there were 153 providers requesting staffing assistance. A total of 142 workers approved (2 RNs, 22 LPNs, and 118 direct care support workers) and 51 actual workers deployed. During this time period, the staffing pool will use stricter eligibility criteria and only deploy to settings with a crisis due to COVID infections, or settings that notified DHS/MDH of closure and they cannot maintain a safe staffing ratio. This funding is expected to result in the purchase of about 3,800 hours of vendor staffing hours and is expected to extend the program for an additional two months. Once the funding is exhausted the program will be suspended if no other funding is available.

Administrative resources are needed to triage, coordinate and prioritize requests with the staffing vendors. This will require \$48,700 in administrative resources, which includes a contract for a subject matter expert to manage FEMA applications, contract management and reporting. FEMA reimbursement is likely for COVID-related staffing emergencies.

Jodi Harpstead  Digitally signed by Jodi Harpstead  
Date: 2023.01.06 08:06:02 -06'00'  
Department Head Signature

1/6/2023  
Date