



Minnesota Department of **Human Services**

Fast Facts: 2014 Legislative Session

Expanded facilities to bolster early childhood learning

Demand for early childhood facilities that are safe and accessible continues to rise statewide. Rising child poverty rates increase the number of children eligible for early childhood services, such as Head Start, Early Head Start and School Readiness programs. Legislation proposed by Gov. Mark Dayton and approved by the Legislature this year approved \$6 million to expand early learning facilities to promote high quality education for Minnesota's young children.

Increasing facility size and community accessibility

Funds will be used for statewide, competitive grants to construct or renovate facilities for early childhood learning programs. The grants will expand access to safe, accessible, high quality facilities for young children and their families.

Improved facilities will promote better educational and developmental outcomes for children, particularly children who are at highest risk of being unprepared for kindergarten. These new facilities will expand access for families and serve an estimated 2,310 children.

With the new 2014 funding:

- \$3 million will go to local entities, via competitive bidding grants, to construct and rehabilitate early childhood learning facilities; current law requires an equal nonstate match amount.
- \$3 million is designated for a Hennepin County project to predesign, design, renovate, furnish and equip the early childhood center at the YWCA of Minneapolis. This project also has a nonstate match requirement of at least an equal amount.

Related information:

- DHS fact sheets: <http://mn.gov/dhs/media/fact-sheets/>
- Omnibus Capital Investment Bill:
http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/billnum.asp?Billnumber=HF2490&Go.x=9&Go.y=13&Go=Search&ls_year=88&sessionvar=20130
- Minnesota Statute 256E.37 on early childhood learning facilities:
https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=256E.37&year=2013&keyword_type=all&keyword=256E.37

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