Department of Human Services - Nursing Home Innovation Grants Summary

Grant Program Outline: The nursing home innovation grants proposed by the Noem Administration and passed in partnership with the South Dakota Legislature were designed to fund projects in areas crucial to the needs of long-term care services in South Dakota. Grants were made available to fund proposals submitted by qualified entities designed to:

- improve the quality of life and overall experience of residents of long-term care;
- enhance opportunities to shift the model of care and provide a continuum of services;
- improve long term care employee recruitment and retention; or
- all of the above.

Intended Grant Outcomes: To affect positive change in long-term care services in South Dakota and provide opportunity to create new models of care. Proposals were encouraged to include:

- direct improvements to quality of care;
- staff training and development programs above and beyond what is currently required;
- develop programs to improve quality of life and/or overall well-being of nursing home residents and their health status;
- develop models of care which address the changing preferences of the population in need of long-term services and supports.

Grant Application Process: Qualified entities submitted a proposal using the grant application process published on the Department website. Applicants were required to demonstrate that they were:

- a licensed nursing home provider in South Dakota;
- qualified and capable of carrying out the submitted proposal;
- free from conflict of interest with the intent of the Innovation Grants.

Applications were required to include evidence of:

- ability of the project to improve resident outcomes;
- ability of the project to support activities that either directly or indirectly benefit residents;
- ability of the project to be replicated if successfully implemented as a promising practice.

Limitations included:

- projects could not exceed a maximum of three years;
- projects could not be funded for a simple cosmetic upgrade of existing buildings, walls, furnishings;
- projects could not include requests for items or services which were already the responsibility of the nursing home such as laundry services, utility costs, staffing costs.

Successful Grant Award Criteria: The applications selected for funding were those that met the criteria listed under the grant program outline, fulfilled the requirements of the grant application process and submitted both a sufficiently detailed budget and a well laid out plan for monitoring and reporting of outcomes directly related to the grant funding.

Proposals funded were effective in demonstrating an improvement to resident quality of life, a benefit to patient health status or general well-being, a program for improvements which would improve staff retention, or provided an opportunity to expand on the current long-term model of care. Many of the awards were able to touch on more than one category by implementing a program which both improved resident outcomes and decreased stress on staff through improved services or training.