



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #113

Local Government Grant Resource Team (Administration -- General Agency Provisions)

[LFB 2023-25 Budget Summary: Page 24, #10]

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, local governments generate funding by: (a) levying local taxes; (b) receiving funding and grants from the state government, some of which may originate from the federal government and pass through the state; and (c) in some cases, receiving grants directly from the federal government. Local governments receive state and federal grants only to the extent to which local governments are aware of grant opportunities and applications are timely and successfully completed, submitted, and evaluated.

Currently, the Department of Administration's (DOA) Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) provides application training to interested local governments and consulting agencies for the community development block grant planning (CDBG-PLNG) and competitive public facilities (CDBG-PF) grant programs. Additionally, DEHCR provides guidance and instructions in writing grant applications for eligible small cities CDBG applicants. Previously, DOA's Division of Intergovernmental Relations (DIR) held educational grant workshops for local governments. However, these workshops are no longer being conducted due to limited staff capacity.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. According to DOA, many local units of government in Wisconsin are unaware of state and federal grant opportunities, in part due to a lack of widespread marketing of the grants at the federal level. Additionally, some local units of government have hesitated to apply for federal funds because of concerns regarding the extensive reporting requirements of federal grant programs.

2. Assembly Bill 43/Senate Bill 70 would provide \$411,300 GPR in 2023-24, \$548,400 GPR in 2024-25, and 5.0 GPR positions annually to DOA's general program operations appropriation to create a grant resource team within DIR responsible for assisting local governments in navigating state and federal grant application processes. The grant resource team is intended to increase the ability of local governments to obtain federal and state resources. According to DOA, the local government grant resource team would create a formal conduit through which information about grants could be gathered and provided, and technical assistance and training could be offered to local governments. The team would assist local governments with direct federal grants, federal grants that are administered by the state, and state-funded grant opportunities.

3. The local government grant resource team would be responsible for: (a) monitoring federal grant opportunities; (b) developing and implementing outreach strategies and creating partnerships (for example, working with state agencies to promote agencies' grant programs and develop appropriate reporting systems); (c) assisting local governments with grant opportunities; (d) identifying gaps in resources and available opportunities; and (e) creating and maintaining a webpage on grants, technical assistance, and analytics on grant funding in the state. Note that the team would not write grant proposals on behalf of local governments, but rather would provide information and resources to help local governments improve grant-writing abilities and strengthen applications, and provide assistance once awards have been made. A local government grant resource team webpage would be created within DIR's webpage.

4. According to DOA, funding and position authority of \$411,300 GPR in 2023-24, \$548,400 GPR in 2024-25, and 5.0 GPR positions annually would fund four grant specialist or program and policy analyst positions and one program and policy analyst supervisor for the team. Funding was based on the approximate average salaries for grant specialist/program and policy analyst positions at DOA (\$67,300) and for a supervisor position (\$89,000). Annualized supplies and services of \$10,000 for each position would be provided. Table 1 below indicates the funding components for the local government grant resource team under AB 43/SB 70. Given that a local government grant resource team could assist local governments in obtaining additional federal funding and provide information and technical assistance regarding state grant programs, the Committee could provide \$411,300 GPR in 2023-24, \$548,400 GPR in 2024-25, and 5.0 GPR positions annually to DOA's general program operations appropriation for this purpose. [Alternative 1]

TABLE 1

Funding Components of Local Government Grant Resources Team under AB 43/SB 70

<u>Item</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits, Grants Specialists/Program and Policy Analysts	\$280,900	\$374,600
Salary and Fringe Benefits, Program and Policy Analyst Supervisor	92,900	123,800
Supplies and Services	<u>37,500</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Total	\$411,300	\$548,400

5. Alternatively, the Committee could provide \$255,900 GPR in 2023-24, \$341,100 GPR in 2024-25, and 3.0 GPR positions annually, including two grant specialist or program and policy analyst positions and one program and policy analyst supervisor position. [Alternative 2] Table 2 below indicates the funding components for the local government grant resource team under this alternative.

TABLE 2

Funding Components of Local Government Grant Resources Team, Alternative 2

<u>Item</u>	<u>2023-24</u>	<u>2024-25</u>
Salaries and Fringe Benefits, Grants Specialists/Program and Policy Analysts	\$140,500	\$187,300
Salary and Fringe Benefits, Program and Policy Analyst Supervisor	92,900	123,800
Supplies and Services	<u>22,500</u>	<u>30,000</u>
Total	\$255,900	\$341,100

6. If no action is taken, a designated local government grant team would not be created. [Alternative 3] Note, however, that DECHR would continue to provide assistance for the CDBG grant programs mentioned above.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$411,300 GPR in 2023-24, \$548,400 GPR in 2024-25, and 5.0 GPR positions annually to DOA's general program operations appropriation for a local government grant resource team.

ALT 1	Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$959,700	5.00

2. Provide \$255,900 GPR in 2023-24, \$341,100 GPR in 2024-25, and 3.0 GPR positions to DOA's general program operations appropriation for a local government grant resource team.

ALT 2	Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$597,000	3.00

3. Take no action.

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