

29C.20B Disaster case advocacy grant fund and program.

1. *a.* A disaster case advocacy grant fund is created in the state treasury for the use of the executive council. Moneys in the fund shall be available following the governor's proclamation of a state of disaster emergency or the declaration of a major disaster by the president of the United States.

b. The executive council may make financial grants to meet disaster-related case advocacy needs of disaster-affected individuals. The aggregate total of grants awarded shall not be more than one million dollars during a fiscal year. However, within the same fiscal year, additional funds may be specifically authorized by the executive council to meet additional needs. Upon request of the department, the executive council may make available up to one hundred thousand dollars, or so much as is necessary, for contract entity staff support and case management training.

c. The department shall work with representatives of selected nonprofit, voluntary, and faith-based organizations active in disaster recovery and response to establish a statewide system of disaster case advocacy to be activated following the governor's proclamation of a disaster emergency or the declaration of a major disaster by the president of the United States for individual assistance purposes.

2. The department shall administer disaster case advocacy grants. The department shall establish a disaster case advocacy program and adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) necessary to administer the program. The executive council shall use grant moneys to reimburse the department for actual expenses associated with the administration of the grants. Under the program, the department shall coordinate case advocacy services locally through one or more contracted entities. The department may implement an ongoing contract with a provider of a statewide program with local offices throughout the state to serve as the local administrative entity for the grant program to allow implementation of the program with minimal delay following a governor's proclamation of a state of disaster emergency or a declaration of a major disaster by the president of the United States.

3. The department in consultation with representatives of the Iowa voluntary organizations active in disaster, shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to create coordination mechanisms and standards for the establishment and implementation of a statewide system of disaster case advocacy. The rules adopted by the department for the program shall include but are not limited to all of the following:

a. If a local administrative entity is under contract with the state to provide other services or is implementing a state or federal program and the contract contains adequate financial responsibility provisions, the department shall accept the existing surety bond or financial responsibility provisions in lieu of applying a new or additional financial responsibility requirement.

b. Authorization for the local administrative entity to draw down grant funding to pay valid claims on at least a weekly basis.

c. Disaster case advocacy standards.

d. Disaster case advocacy policies.

e. Reporting requirements.

f. Eligibility criteria.

g. Coordination mechanisms necessary to carry out the services provided.

h. Development of formal working relationships with agencies and creation of interagency agreements for those considered to provide disaster case advocacy services.

i. Establishment of nonduplication of benefits policies and mechanisms.

j. Referral to all known available services for individuals from multiple agencies in coordinated service locations.

4. By January 1 of each year, the department shall submit an annual written report to the

legislative fiscal committee and the general assembly's standing committees on government oversight concerning the activities of the grant program during the previous fiscal year.

2010 Acts, ch 1096, §1; 2011 Acts, ch 25, §8; 2011 Acts, ch 69, §11; 2011 Acts, ch 122, §29, 30; 2011 Acts, ch 129, §83, 156; 2012 Acts, ch 1021, §35; 2013 Acts, ch 29, §25; 2016 Acts, ch 1110, §1; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2165

Referred to in §16.57B

Section amended