

**COVID-19 Management  
Request Form**

Please complete this form in accordance  
with the process instructions.

**Agency/Point of Contact:** Natasha Merz, Interim Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Services

**Title of Request:** Expansion of At Risk Populations emergency staffing pool

**Date:** 9/8/2022

**Request Amount:** \$ 1,100,000

**Expenditure Time Period:** 10/1/2022 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)

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. Temporary funding to continue low-risk environment operations beginning July 1, 2022 was approved. However, additional funds are being requested in order to prepare for a surge in demand due to increasing COVID cases. 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. The staffing pool will use strict eligibility criteria and only deploy to settings with a crisis due to COVID infections. This funding is expected to support expanded capacity to deploy staff from October 1, 2022 through February 15, 2023.

Administrative resources are needed to triage, coordinate and prioritize requests with the staffing vendors. In addition, this request includes funds to continue COVID case management for DHS licensed residential settings that have COVID cases. This will require an estimated \$155,000 in administrative resources, the equivalent of 3.5 contracted and DHS FTE for four months.

**Jodi Harpstead**

Digitally signed by Jodi Harpstead  
Date: 2022.09.09 12:46:39 -05'00'

Department Head Signature

**9/9/2022**

Date