



Joint Committee on Appropriations
REPRESENTATIVE MIKE DERBY, CO-CHAIR
SENATOR JEAN HUNHOFF, CO-CHAIR

March 25, 2024

Shawnie Rechtenbaugh, Department Secretary
Department of Human Services
3800 East Hwy 34
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Technology Grants for Long Term Care Providers

Dear Secretary Rechtenbaugh,

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations (JCA) in approving your appropriation in the 2024 Legislative session. As such, this Letter of Intent seeks to supplement that legislation with specific policy guidance as approved on March 25, 2024.

While the guidance does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Legislature approved SB 80, which makes an appropriation of \$2,000,000 in general fund moneys to provide grants to qualified providers serving elderly patients. The moneys may only be used for approved technological equipment for improving the care of elderly patients and improving the productivity of workers tending elderly patients. These improvements may include, but not limited to, remote sensing, telecommunications between workers and patients, monitoring devices, and other technological equipment that will allow better care and access to elderly patients.

Any Medicaid-licensed provider serving primarily elderly patients may apply for a grant. All applicants shall include what technology equipment will be used, the price of the equipment, the expected outcomes in terms of the provider's residents and workers, and other information the department may deem necessary to evaluate and process an application. The application process and the awarding of grants must be completed no later than September 30, 2024.

SB 80 requires the department to provide a report to the JCA about the use of the technology grants. This report shall include the providers that were given, how much each provider was given, what technology was purchased using the grant, and the number of patients helped by the grant. The department may also include other information to show the impact of the grant.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Representative Mike Derby
Lead Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Senator Jean Hunhoff
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Russell Olson, Auditor General
Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management