



Access Critical Nursing Facilities

Department of Human Services

Overview

Governor Noem's recommended FY2022 budget includes \$1,035,057 in general funds and \$1,464,477 in federal fund expenditure authority to expand three additional nursing facilities to access critical designation. Governor Noem is actively working to sustain nursing facilities in rural areas to ensure individuals have continued access to quality, long-term care services.

Access Critical Program

The \$2.5 million in ongoing funds (\$1 million general funds and \$1.4 million federal funds) will be used to expand, for the first time, the Access Critical Nursing Facility Program. There are currently nine rural nursing facilities supported by the program. Governor Noem's recommendation will expand the program to include three additional facilities located in the communities of Platte, Sisseton, and Madison.

The access critical concept was developed as a result of the Continuum of Care Study in 2008, and the program was implemented in 2011. It is designed to ensure continued geographical access to nursing facility services in the rural areas of the state by providing reimbursement to eligible nursing facilities in order to keep them financially viable. To be eligible for the program, nursing facilities must meet certain statutory criteria pertaining to the proximity to other nursing facilities, size of the municipality in which they are located, the services provided, and the integration with other health care services.