



---

# Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

03/13/2024

## **Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program**

Minnesota Department of Health  
Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division  
PO Box 64975  
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975  
651-201-5000  
[health.victimrecovery@state.mn.us](mailto:health.victimrecovery@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us)

As requested by Minnesota Statute 3.197: This report cost approximately \$700 to prepare, including staff time, printing and mailing expenses.

*Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, Braille, or audio recording.  
Printed on recycled paper.*

# Contents

- Introduction..... 4
  - About the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program..... 4
- Status Report ..... 4
  - Timeline for Implementation ..... 5
- Conclusion ..... 5

## Introduction

This report provides a status update on the implementation of the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program as of January 2024. This is the first of two reports. The second report will be submitted by January 15, 2025, with information on the operations and results of the grant program.

## About the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program

The Minnesota Legislature established the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program in the Laws of Minnesota 2023, chapter 70, article 4, section 104. The new competitive grant program was established to address the health and wellness needs of victims of trauma and the families and heirs of victims of trauma. A total of \$500,000 is available for this one-time grant program. While the grant program is named for Emmett Louis Till, a 14-year-old Black boy who was kidnapped, lynched, and brutally murdered in a racially motivated hate crime in 1955, the program was established to support victims of trauma more broadly, including all individuals who have experienced discrimination or oppression based on race, ethnicity, or national origin. To learn more about the history and legacy of Emmett Louis Till, you can read the [Emmett Till Story](https://emmettilllegacyfoundation.com/emmetts-story/) (<https://emmettilllegacyfoundation.com/emmetts-story/>) on the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation website.

## Status Update

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has begun work to start this new competitive grant program, including designating staff, identifying and meeting with community partners, and creating a timeline for implementation.

The Injury and Violence Prevention Section in the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Division has been selected to implement the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program. The Injury and Violence Prevention Section has content expertise in violence prevention, and experience implementing community-engaged competitive grant programs. Although the MN Legislature failed to include any administrative funding with this request, the Injury and Violence Prevention Section has dedicated staff time to facilitate a community engagement process, oversee the competitive request for proposals, manage outgoing grants, and evaluate the program.

As specified in the legislative language, MDH's commissioner is directed to consult with victims, families, and heirs in awarding competitive grants under this program. Key partners have been identified and consultation has started. The Injury and Violence Prevention Section so far has consulted with MDH's Center for Health Equity, the Governor's Office, the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage, and the Emmett Till Legacy Foundation. These conversations have been instrumental to the development of the competitive request for proposals (RFP) which was released in March 2024. In addition to this initial consultation, the listed partners will be invited to participate in the competitive review process, providing input into the final funding decisions for this grant program.

## Timeline for Implementation

The Minnesota Department of Health has created the following timeline for implementing the Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program. This timeline may need to be adjusted as the program is implemented. An update on progress will be included in the next legislative report.

Activity	Date
Post Request for Proposals (RFP)	March 1 2024
Applications Due	April 1, 2024
Competitive Review of Applications	April 2024
Notice of Award	May 2024
Grant Awards Start	July 2024
Second Legislative Report Due	Jan. 15, 2025
Grant Awards End	June 30, 2025

## Conclusion

The Minnesota Department of Health is in the process of creating the new Emmett Louis Till Victims Recovery Program. A competitive request for proposals was released in March 2024, and grant awards will begin in July 2024. A second report will be submitted to the Legislature by Jan. 15, 2025, detailing the grant awards, activities funded, and results of the grant program.