

By: Hernandez, Coleman

H.B. No. 2251

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to funding of entities through the community collaborative grant program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 539.002(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the department shall require each entity awarded a grant under this section to:

(1) leverage additional funding or in-kind contributions from private sources or local governmental sources in an amount that is at least equal to the amount of the grant awarded under this section;

(2) provide evidence of significant coordination and collaboration between the entity, local mental health authorities, municipalities, local law enforcement agencies, and other community stakeholders in establishing or expanding a community collaborative funded by a grant awarded under this section; and

(3) provide evidence of a local law enforcement policy to divert appropriate persons from jails or other detention facilities to an entity affiliated with a community collaborative for the purpose of providing services to those persons.

SECTION 2. Section 539.003, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 539.003. ACCEPTABLE USES OF GRANT MONEY. An entity

1 shall use money received from a grant made by the department and
2 private funding sources for the establishment or expansion of a
3 community collaborative[~~, provided that the collaborative must be~~
4 ~~self-sustaining within seven years~~]. Acceptable uses for the money
5 include:

6 (1) the development of the infrastructure of the
7 collaborative and the start-up costs of the collaborative;

8 (2) the establishment, operation, or maintenance of
9 other community service providers in the community served by the
10 collaborative, including intake centers, detoxification units,
11 sheltering centers for food, workforce training centers,
12 microbusinesses, and educational centers;

13 (3) the provision of clothing, hygiene products, and
14 medical services to and the arrangement of transitional and
15 permanent residential housing for persons served by the
16 collaborative;

17 (4) the provision of mental health services and
18 substance abuse treatment not readily available in the community
19 served by the collaborative;

20 (5) the provision of information, tools, and resource
21 referrals to assist persons served by the collaborative in
22 addressing the needs of their children; and

23 (6) the establishment and operation of coordinated
24 intake processes, including triage procedures, to protect the
25 public safety in the community served by the collaborative.

26 SECTION 3. Section [539.0051](#)(a), Government Code, is amended
27 to read as follows:

1 (a) The governing body of a county shall develop and make
2 public a plan detailing:

3 (1) how local mental health authorities,
4 municipalities, local law enforcement agencies, and other
5 community stakeholders in the county could coordinate to establish
6 or expand a community collaborative to accomplish the goals of
7 Section 539.002;

8 (2) how entities in the county may leverage funding
9 from private sources or local governmental sources to accomplish
10 the goals of Section 539.002 through the formation or expansion of a
11 community collaborative; and

12 (3) how the formation or expansion of a community
13 collaborative could establish or support resources or services to
14 help local law enforcement agencies to divert persons who have been
15 arrested to appropriate mental health care or substance abuse
16 treatment.

17 SECTION 4. Section 539.007, Government Code, is amended to
18 read as follows:

19 Sec. 539.007. REDUCTION AND CESSATION OF FUNDING. The
20 department shall establish processes by which the department may
21 reduce or cease providing funding to an entity if the community
22 collaborative operated by the entity does not meet the outcome
23 measures selected by the entity for the collaborative under Section
24 539.005 [~~or is not self-sustaining after seven years~~]. The
25 department shall redistribute any funds withheld from an entity
26 under this section to other entities operating high-performing
27 collaboratives on a competitive basis.

1 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply to a
2 grant awarded on or after the effective date of this Act. A grant
3 awarded under a provision amended by this Act is governed by the law
4 in effect on the date the grant was awarded, and the former law is
5 continued in effect for that purpose.

6 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.