

By: West

S.B. No. 1390

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for municipal or county mental health crisis response team programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.09916 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.09916. GRANT PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Crisis intervention team" means a group of mental health professionals who provide services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

(2) "Mental health crisis response team" means a crisis intervention team or a multidisciplinary crisis response team.

(3) "Mental health crisis response team program" means a municipal or county program operated under a grant provided under this section.

(4) "Multidisciplinary crisis response team" means a group composed of three or more persons that includes at least one paramedic, one law enforcement officer, and one mental health professional, who work together to provide services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

(b) The executive commissioner shall establish and administer a grant program to grant money to municipalities and

1 counties for the purpose of operating a mental health crisis
2 response team program to:

3 (1) operate one or more mental health crisis response
4 teams in the municipality or county; and

5 (2) employ one or more mental health professionals to:

6 (A) screen calls made to a 9-1-1 emergency call
7 center dispatcher for law enforcement or emergency medical
8 assistance;

9 (B) determine whether to dispatch a mental health
10 crisis response team to service a call; and

11 (C) consult with and provide information to the
12 dispatched mental health crisis response team.

13 (c) A grant application from a municipality or county to the
14 commission must be submitted on a form prescribed by the commission
15 and include a statement from the governing body of the municipality
16 or county regarding the municipal or county proposal to establish a
17 mental health crisis response team program. The application must
18 require the inclusion of the results of an assessment conducted to
19 determine:

20 (1) the number of mental health-related calls for
21 assistance received by the municipality's or county's 9-1-1
22 emergency call center;

23 (2) the number of paramedics and mental health
24 professionals available to serve on a municipality's or county's
25 mental health crisis response team; and

26 (3) the municipality's or county's capability to
27 accurately collect and report information concerning:

1 (A) the frequency and outcomes of mental
2 health-related calls for assistance; and

3 (B) the number of calls for assistance primarily
4 identified as involving a criminal offense but that also involved a
5 demonstrated need for mental health intervention, services, crisis
6 referrals, or de-escalation for the person making the call or for a
7 person who was the subject of a call made by another.

8 (d) Two or more political subdivisions eligible to apply for
9 a grant under this section may enter an agreement to:

10 (1) jointly apply for a grant under this section; and

11 (2) if awarded a grant, jointly operate a regional
12 mental health crisis response team to serve a region composed of
13 territory of those political subdivisions.

14 (e) In addition to funding received under a grant under this
15 section, a municipality or county may contribute local funds to the
16 operation of the municipality's or county's mobile crisis response
17 team program, including a team operated under an agreement under
18 Subsection (d).

19 (f) The commission may use any available state and federal
20 money and may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source
21 for the purpose of providing grants under this section.

22 (g) The executive commissioner shall adopt all rules
23 necessary for the establishment of the grant program under this
24 section.

25 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
26 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human
27 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement

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1 Section 531.09916, Government Code, as added by this Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.