

AN ACT

relating to innovation grant programs to support residency training programs in psychiatric specialty fields and recruitment, training, and retention programs in behavioral health fields.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 58A, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 58A.071. PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM. Subject to available funds, the board shall establish an innovation grant program under which the board awards incentive payments to medical schools that administer innovative residency training programs designed to increase the number of physicians in this state who specialize in pediatric or adult psychiatric care.

Sec. 58A.072. FEDERAL FUNDS AND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to other money appropriated by the legislature, for the purpose of promoting pediatric or adult psychiatric care under the program established under this subchapter the board may:

(1) seek and apply for any available federal funds;

and

(2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any other source, public or private, as necessary to ensure effective implementation of the program.

1 Sec. 58A.073. RULES. In consultation with each medical
2 school in this state, the board shall adopt rules for the
3 administration of the program established under this
4 subchapter. The rules must include:

5 (1) administrative provisions relating to the
6 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

7 (A) eligibility criteria for medical schools,
8 including a requirement that the medical school demonstrate
9 regional and state workforce need;

10 (B) grant application procedures;

11 (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

12 (D) procedures for evaluating grant
13 applications; and

14 (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;
15 and

16 (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants
17 that:

18 (A) using data reasonably available to the board,
19 consider relevant information regarding the career paths of medical
20 school graduates during the four-year period following their
21 graduation; and

22 (B) evaluate whether and for how long those
23 graduates practice in a psychiatric specialty field in this state.

24 Sec. 58A.074. AWARD OF GRANTS. (a) In awarding grants
25 under the program, the board shall award:

26 (1) 60 percent of the amount available in each program
27 year to medical schools with innovative residency programs that

1 train physicians to specialize in pediatric psychiatric care; and
2 (2) 40 percent of the amount available in each program
3 year to medical schools with innovative residency programs that
4 train physicians to specialize in adult psychiatric care.

5 (b) Within each category of grants prescribed by Subsection
6 (a), the board shall give priority to grants to medical schools with
7 innovative residency programs based in rural or underserved areas.

8 Sec. 58A.075. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a grant awarded
9 under this subchapter may not exceed \$1 million.

10 Sec. 58A.076. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. A medical school
11 that receives a grant awarded under this subchapter shall submit to
12 the board an annual report on the amounts and purposes for which
13 grant funds were spent during the year covered by the report.

14 Sec. 58A.077. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,
15 not to exceed five percent, of any general revenue appropriated for
16 purposes of this subchapter may be used by the board to pay the
17 costs of administering this subchapter.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
19 Subchapter RR to read as follows:

20 SUBCHAPTER RR. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

21 Sec. 61.9991. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.
22 Subject to available funds, the board shall establish an innovation
23 grant program under which the board awards incentive payments to
24 institutions of higher education that administer innovative
25 recruitment, training, and retention programs designed to increase
26 the number of mental health professionals, as defined by Section
27 61.601, or professionals in related fields, as determined by the

1 board, including by providing a salary increase or stipend to a
2 faculty member who provides instruction to additional students in a
3 degree or certificate program that graduates those professionals.

4 Sec. 61.9992. FEDERAL FUNDS AND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND
5 DONATIONS. In addition to other money appropriated by the
6 legislature, for the purpose of increasing the behavioral health
7 workforce in this state under the program established under this
8 subchapter the board may:

9 (1) seek and apply for any available federal funds;

10 and

11 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations
12 from any other source, public or private, as necessary to ensure
13 effective implementation of the program.

14 Sec. 61.9993. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules for
15 the administration of the program established under this
16 subchapter. In adopting the rules, the board shall solicit from the
17 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council information necessary to
18 identify programs anticipated to produce the best outcomes and
19 serve the greatest need.

20 (b) The rules must include:

21 (1) administrative provisions relating to the
22 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

23 (A) eligibility criteria for institutions of
24 higher education, including a requirement that the institution
25 demonstrate regional and state workforce need;

26 (B) grant application procedures;

27 (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

1 (D) procedures for evaluating grant
2 applications; and

3 (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;
4 and

5 (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants
6 that:

7 (A) using data reasonably available to the board,
8 consider relevant information regarding the career paths of
9 professionals described by Section 61.9991 during the four-year
10 period following their graduation; and

11 (B) evaluate whether and for how long those
12 professionals practice in a field described by Section 61.9991 in
13 this state.

14 Sec. 61.9994. AWARD OF GRANTS. In awarding grants under the
15 program, the board shall give priority to applicants that propose
16 to:

17 (1) enhance or leverage existing degree programs that
18 graduate professionals described by Section 61.9991;

19 (2) establish or maintain a program that serves a
20 rural or underserved area;

21 (3) partner with:

22 (A) another institution of higher education to
23 develop a joint program; or

24 (B) a public school to implement early
25 recruitment in high school;

26 (4) establish or maintain a program that incentivizes
27 professionals described by Section 61.9991 to serve in their field

1 or a related field of study for at least three consecutive years
2 following graduation in an inpatient or outpatient behavioral
3 health facility or program that receives state funding;

4 (5) establish or maintain a degree or certificate
5 program to educate professionals in specialties that face
6 significant workforce shortages, including those described by
7 Section 61.601; or

8 (6) establish or maintain psychiatric fellowship
9 programs that serve correctional facilities or inpatient
10 psychiatric facilities.

11 Sec. 61.9995. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a grant awarded
12 under this subchapter may not exceed \$1 million.

13 Sec. 61.9996. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. An institution of
14 higher education that receives a grant awarded under this
15 subchapter shall submit to the board an annual report on the amounts
16 and purposes for which grant funds were spent during the year
17 covered by the report.

18 Sec. 61.9997. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,
19 not to exceed five percent, of any general revenue appropriated for
20 purposes of this subchapter may be used by the board to pay the
21 costs of administering this subchapter.

22 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective
23 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
24 shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the
25 innovation grant programs established under Subchapter D, Chapter
26 58A, Education Code, and Subchapter RR, Chapter 61, Education Code,
27 as added by this Act.

1 (b) Not later than September 1, 2024, the Texas Higher
2 Education Coordinating Board shall establish the innovation grant
3 programs required by Subchapter D, Chapter 58A, Education Code, and
4 Subchapter RR, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, and
5 shall begin to award grants under each program as soon as
6 practicable after the program is established.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 400 was passed by the House on May 1, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 124, Nays 18, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 400 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor