

By: Lujan

H.B. No. 4985

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for technological enhancements at certain health care facilities that provide mental health care services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.09915 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.09915. GRANT PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS AT CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) In this section, "health care facility" means:

(1) a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, that is located in a rural county; or

(2) a hospital licensed under Chapter 577, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The commission shall establish a grant program for the purpose of enhancing the technological capabilities of health care facilities providing mental health care services in this state.

(c) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a health care facility must:

(1) demonstrate how the grant money will be used to improve the quality of and access to mental health care services in this state;

(2) align with the interoperability and technology

1 standards in the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. No. 114-255); and
2 (3) meet any other additional eligibility criteria
3 established by the commission.

4 (d) A health care facility awarded a grant under this
5 section may use the grant money to:

6 (1) purchase a recordkeeping platform that uses a
7 certified electronic health record;

8 (2) expand the interoperability of health information
9 in the health care facility or as part of a network with other
10 health care providers;

11 (3) expand a patient's access to the patient's digital
12 health records and mental health care services;

13 (4) improve information technology infrastructure
14 regarding the data privacy and security of patient information,
15 including consent management; and

16 (5) improve the efficiency of the provision of mental
17 health care services through the use and interconnectivity of
18 mobile devices.

19 (e) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
20 donations from any source for the purposes of awarding grants under
21 this section.

22 (f) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
23 the commission shall submit a report to the legislature regarding
24 the results of the grant program administered under this section.

25 (g) The commission may adopt any rules necessary to
26 implement this section.

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.