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H.B. No. 424

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 424:

By: Laubenberg

C.S.H.B. No. 424

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a competitive grant program to fund nurse-family partnership programs in certain communities in this state.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER M. NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 531.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Competitive grant program" means the nurse-family partnership competitive grant program established under this subchapter.

(2) "Partnership program" means a nurse-family partnership program.

Sec. 531.452. ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a nurse-family partnership competitive grant program through which the commission will award grants for the implementation of nurse-family partnership programs, or the expansion of existing programs, and for the operation of those programs for a period of not less than two years.

(b) The commission shall award grants under the program to applicants in a manner that ensures that the partnership programs collectively:

(1) operate in multiple communities; and

1 (2) provide program services to at least 2,000
2 families.

3 Sec. 531.453. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. A
4 partnership program funded through a grant awarded under this
5 subchapter must:

6 (1) strictly adhere to the program model developed by
7 the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, including
8 any clinical, programmatic, and data collection requirements of
9 that model;

10 (2) require that registered nurses regularly visit the
11 homes of low-income, first-time mothers participating in the
12 program to provide services designed to:

13 (A) improve pregnancy outcomes;

14 (B) improve child health and development;

15 (C) improve family economic self-sufficiency and
16 stability; and

17 (D) reduce the incidence of child abuse and
18 neglect; and

19 (3) require that the regular nurse visits described by
20 Subdivision (2) begin not later than a mother's 28th week of
21 gestation and end when her child reaches two years of age.

22 Sec. 531.454. APPLICATION. (a) A public or private entity,
23 including a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of
24 this state, may apply for a grant under this subchapter.

25 (b) To apply for a grant, an applicant must submit a written
26 application to the commission on a form prescribed by the
27 commission in consultation with the Nurse-Family Partnership

1 National Service Office.

2 (c) The application prescribed by the commission must:

3 (1) require the applicant to provide data on the number
4 of low-income, first-time mothers residing in the community in
5 which the applicant proposes to operate or expand a partnership
6 program and provide a description of existing services available to
7 those mothers;

8 (2) describe the ongoing monitoring and evaluation
9 process to which a grant recipient is subject under Section
10 531.459, including the recipient's obligation to collect and
11 provide information requested by the commission under Section
12 531.459(c); and

13 (3) require the applicant to provide other relevant
14 information as determined by the commission.

15 Sec. 531.455. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING
16 GRANTS. In addition to the factors described by Sections
17 531.452(b) and 531.453, in determining whether to award a grant to
18 an applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall consider:

19 (1) the demonstrated need for a partnership program in
20 the community in which the applicant proposes to operate or expand
21 the program, which may be determined by considering:

22 (A) the poverty rate, the crime rate, the number
23 of births to Medicaid recipients, the rate of poor birth outcomes,
24 and the incidence of child abuse and neglect during a prescribed
25 period in the community; and

26 (B) the need to enhance school readiness in the
27 community;

1 (2) the applicant's ability to participate in ongoing
2 monitoring and performance evaluations under Section 531.459,
3 including the applicant's ability to collect and provide
4 information requested by the commission under Section 531.459(c);

5 (3) the applicant's ability to adhere to the
6 partnership program standards adopted under Section 531.456;

7 (4) the applicant's ability to develop broad-based
8 community support for implementing or expanding a partnership
9 program, as applicable; and

10 (5) the applicant's history of developing and
11 sustaining innovative, high-quality programs that meet the needs of
12 families and communities.

13 Sec. 531.456. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM STANDARDS. The executive
14 commissioner, with the assistance of the Nurse-Family Partnership
15 National Service Office, shall adopt standards for the partnership
16 programs funded under this subchapter. The standards must adhere
17 to the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office program
18 model standards and guidelines that were developed in multiple,
19 randomized clinical trials and have been tested and replicated in
20 multiple communities.

21 Sec. 531.457. USE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS. The grant funds
22 awarded under this subchapter may be used only to cover costs
23 related to implementing or expanding and operating a partnership
24 program, including costs related to:

25 (1) administering the program;

26 (2) training and managing registered nurses who
27 participate in the program;

1 (3) paying the salaries and expenses of registered
2 nurses who participate in the program;

3 (4) paying for facilities and equipment for the
4 program; and

5 (5) paying for services provided by the Nurse-Family
6 Partnership National Service Office to ensure a grant recipient
7 adheres to the organization's program model.

8 Sec. 531.458. STATE NURSE CONSULTANT. Using money
9 appropriated for the competitive grant program, the commission
10 shall contract with a state nurse consultant to assist grant
11 recipients with implementing or expanding and operating the
12 partnership programs in the applicable communities.

13 Sec. 531.459. PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION; ANNUAL
14 COMMITTEE REPORTS. (a) The commission, with the assistance of the
15 Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, shall:

16 (1) adopt performance indicators that are designed to
17 measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to the
18 partnership program standards adopted by the commission under
19 Section 531.456;

20 (2) use the performance indicators to continuously
21 monitor and formally evaluate on an annual basis the performance of
22 each grant recipient; and

23 (3) prepare and submit an annual report, not later
24 than December 1 of each year, to the Senate Health and Human
25 Services Committee, or its successor, and the House Committee on
26 Public Health, or its successor, regarding the performance of each
27 grant recipient during the preceding state fiscal year with respect

1 to providing partnership program services.

2 (b) The report required under Subsection (a)(3) must
3 include:

4 (1) the number of low-income, first-time mothers to
5 whom each grant recipient provided partnership program services;

6 (2) the extent to which each grant recipient made
7 regular visits to mothers during the period described by Section
8 531.453(3); and

9 (3) the extent to which each grant recipient adhered
10 to the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office's program
11 model, including the extent to which registered nurses:

12 (A) conducted home visitations comparable in
13 frequency, duration, and content to those delivered in Nurse-Family
14 Partnership National Service Office clinical trials; and

15 (B) assessed the health and well-being of mothers
16 and children participating in the partnership programs in
17 accordance with indicators of maternal, child, and family health
18 defined by the commission in consultation with the Nurse-Family
19 Partnership National Service Office.

20 (c) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect
21 and provide data and any other information required by the
22 commission to monitor and evaluate the recipient or to prepare the
23 report required by this section.

24 Sec. 531.460. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The
25 commission shall actively seek and apply for any available federal
26 funds, including federal Medicaid and Temporary Aid for Needy
27 Family (TANF) funds, to assist in financing the competitive grant

1 program established under this subchapter.

2 (b) The commission may use appropriated funds from the state
3 government and may accept gifts, donations, and grants of money
4 from the federal government, local governments, private
5 corporations, or other persons to assist in financing the
6 competitive grant program.

7 Sec. 531.461. RULES. The executive commissioner shall
8 adopt rules as necessary to administer the competitive grant
9 program.

10 SECTION 2. (a) As required by Section 531.460(a),
11 Government Code, as added by this Act, the Health and Human Services
12 Commission shall, as soon as practicable, apply for any available
13 federal funds to assist in financing the nurse-family partnership
14 competitive grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 531,
15 Government Code, as added by this Act.

16 (b) Not later than December 1, 2007, the Health and Human
17 Services Commission shall establish and implement the nurse-family
18 partnership competitive grant program required by Subchapter M,
19 Chapter 531, Government Code, as added by this Act.

20 (c) Not later than December 1, 2008, the Health and Human
21 Services Commission shall submit the initial annual report required
22 by Section 531.459(a)(3), Government Code, as added by this Act.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.