

By: Madden

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, including the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas, in a manner that ensures that the partnership programs collectively:

(1) operate in multiple communities; and

1           (2) provide program services to approximately 1,200  
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 Human Services  
26 Committee, 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 SECTION 2. (a) As required by Section 531.460(a),  
8 Government Code, as added by this Act, the Health and Human Services  
9 Commission shall, as soon as practicable, apply for any available  
10 federal funds to assist in financing the nurse-family partnership  
11 competitive grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter 531,  
12 Government Code, as added by this Act.

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

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

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