

By: Shapiro, et al.

S.B. No. 156

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 applicants operating existing programs, in a manner that ensures that the partnership programs collectively:

(1) operate in multiple communities that are

1 geographically distributed throughout this state; and

2 (2) provide program services to approximately 2,000  
3 families.

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

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

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

14 (A) improve pregnancy outcomes;

15 (B) improve child health and development;

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

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

20 (3) require that nurses who provide services through  
21 the program:

22 (A) receive training from the office of the  
23 attorney general at least once each year on procedures by which a  
24 person may voluntarily acknowledge the paternity of a child and on  
25 the availability of child support services from the office;

26 (B) provide a mother with information about the  
27 rights, responsibilities, and benefits of establishing the

1 paternity of her child, if appropriate;

2 (C) provide assistance to a mother and the  
3 alleged father of her child if the mother and alleged father seek to  
4 voluntarily acknowledge paternity of the child, if appropriate; and

5 (D) provide information to a mother about the  
6 availability of child support services from the office of the  
7 attorney general; and

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

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

15 (b) To apply for a grant, an applicant must submit a written  
16 application to the commission on a form prescribed by the  
17 commission in consultation with the Nurse-Family Partnership  
18 National Service Office.

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

20 (1) require the applicant to provide data on the  
21 number of low-income, first-time mothers residing in the community  
22 in which the applicant proposes to operate or expand a partnership  
23 program and provide a description of existing services available to  
24 those mothers;

25 (2) describe the ongoing monitoring and evaluation  
26 process to which a grant recipient is subject under Section  
27 531.459, including the recipient's obligation to collect and

1 provide information requested by the commission under Section  
2 531.459(c); and

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

5 Sec. 531.455. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING  
6 GRANTS. In addition to the factors described by Sections  
7 531.452(b) and 531.453, in determining whether to award a grant to  
8 an applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall consider:

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

12 (A) the poverty rate, the crime rate, the number  
13 of births to Medicaid recipients, the rate of poor birth outcomes,  
14 and the incidence of child abuse and neglect during a prescribed  
15 period in the community; and

16 (B) the need to enhance school readiness in the  
17 community;

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

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

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

27 (5) the applicant's history of developing and

1 sustaining innovative, high-quality programs that meet the needs of  
2 families and communities.

3 Sec. 531.456. PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM STANDARDS. The executive  
4 commissioner, with the assistance of the Nurse-Family Partnership  
5 National Service Office, shall adopt standards for the partnership  
6 programs funded under this subchapter. The standards must adhere  
7 to the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office program  
8 model standards and guidelines that were developed in multiple,  
9 randomized clinical trials and have been tested and replicated in  
10 multiple communities.

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

15 (1) administering the program;

16 (2) training and managing registered nurses who  
17 participate in the program;

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

20 (4) paying for facilities and equipment for the  
21 program; and

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

25 Sec. 531.458. STATE NURSE CONSULTANT. Using money  
26 appropriated for the competitive grant program, the commission  
27 shall contract with a state nurse consultant to assist grant

1 recipients with implementing or expanding and operating the  
2 partnership programs in the applicable communities.

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

6 (1) adopt performance indicators that are designed to  
7 measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to the  
8 partnership program standards adopted by the commission under  
9 Section 531.456;

10 (2) use the performance indicators to continuously  
11 monitor and formally evaluate on an annual basis the performance of  
12 each grant recipient; and

13 (3) prepare and submit an annual report, not later  
14 than December 1 of each year, to the Senate Health and Human  
15 Services Committee, or its successor, and the House Human Services  
16 Committee, or its successor, regarding the performance of each  
17 grant recipient during the preceding state fiscal year with respect  
18 to providing partnership program services.

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

21 (1) the number of low-income, first-time mothers to  
22 whom each grant recipient provided partnership program services  
23 and, of that number, the number of mothers who established the  
24 paternity of an alleged father as a result of services provided  
25 under the program;

26 (2) the extent to which each grant recipient made  
27 regular visits to mothers during the period described by Section

1 531.453(4); and

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

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

8 (B) assessed the health and well-being of mothers  
9 and children participating in the partnership programs in  
10 accordance with indicators of maternal, child, and family health  
11 defined by the commission in consultation with the Nurse-Family  
12 Partnership National Service Office.

13 (c) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect  
14 and provide data and any other information required by the  
15 commission to monitor and evaluate the recipient or to prepare the  
16 report required by this section.

17 Sec. 531.460. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The  
18 commission shall actively seek and apply for any available federal  
19 funds, including federal Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for  
20 Needy Families (TANF) funds, to assist in financing the competitive  
21 grant program established under this subchapter.

22 (b) The commission may use appropriated funds from the state  
23 government and may accept gifts, donations, and grants of money  
24 from the federal government, local governments, private  
25 corporations, or other persons to assist in financing the  
26 competitive grant program.

27 SECTION 2. (a) As required by Subsection (a), Section

1 531.460, Government Code, as added by this Act, the Health and Human  
2 Services Commission shall, as soon as practicable, apply for any  
3 available federal funds to assist in financing the nurse-family  
4 partnership competitive grant program under Subchapter M, Chapter  
5 531, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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

10 (c) Not later than December 1, 2008, the Health and Human  
11 Services Commission shall submit the initial annual report required  
12 by Subdivision (3), Subsection (a), Section 531.459, Government  
13 Code, as added by this Act.

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