

By: Farias

H.B. No. 1978

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an evidence-based youth development competitive grant pilot program.

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

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

SUBCHAPTER S. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT  
PILOT PROGRAM

Sec. 531.751. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "adolescent" means a person who is at least 12 years of age but younger than 18 years of age.

Sec. 531.752. ESTABLISHMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIVE GRANT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish an evidence-based youth development competitive grant pilot program to award grants for the implementation, expansion, and operation of evidence-based youth development programs designed to provide information and guidance for not more than 75 adolescents in making healthy and beneficial life choices.

(b) The pilot program shall be located in Bexar County and serve regions that are:

(1) located in zip codes in which the school-age birth rate is at least three times the national school-age birth rate; and

(2) served by one or more school districts in which:

(A) at least 90 percent of the student population

1 is economically disadvantaged; and

2 (B) the annual dropout rate for grades 7 through  
3 12 is greater than five percent.

4 Sec. 531.753. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
5 REQUIREMENTS. (a) An evidence-based youth development program  
6 funded through a grant awarded under this subchapter must:

7 (1) target adolescents who:

8 (A) are at risk of becoming pregnant or causing  
9 an unplanned pregnancy or already have a child;

10 (B) are at risk of engaging in delinquent conduct  
11 or conduct indicating a need for supervision, as those terms are  
12 defined by Section 51.03, Family Code;

13 (C) are at risk of dropping out of school;

14 (D) live in foster care or in a facility operated  
15 by the state; or

16 (E) live in economically disadvantaged  
17 circumstances;

18 (2) feature a curriculum that is appropriate for  
19 adolescents and that has been demonstrated to reduce school dropout  
20 and adolescent pregnancy rates;

21 (3) include a community service component of not fewer  
22 than 20 hours each year;

23 (4) include at least one activity session or group  
24 discussion each week; and

25 (5) cover a wide variety of developmental topics of  
26 interest to adolescents, including:

27 (A) development of values and good judgment;

- 1           (B) communication and assertiveness;
- 2           (C) healthy relationships;
- 3           (D) influence of others and peer pressure;
- 4           (E) goal-setting;
- 5           (F) decision-making;
- 6           (G) development and human sexuality;
- 7           (H) preparation for participation in community  
8 service activities;
- 9           (I) community service learning; and
- 10          (J) group reflection on community service  
11 experiences.

12           (b) An evidence-based youth development program must  
13 operate for not less than nine months or an academic school year.

14           Sec. 531.754. APPLICATION. (a) A public or private entity,  
15 including a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of  
16 this state, may apply for a grant under this subchapter by  
17 submitting a written application to the commission on a form  
18 prescribed by the commission.

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

20           (1) require the applicant to provide data on the  
21 number of adolescents who will receive assistance through the  
22 program;

23           (2) describe the ongoing monitoring and evaluation  
24 process to which a grant recipient is subject, including the  
25 recipient's obligation to collect and provide information  
26 requested by the commission; and

27           (3) require the applicant to provide other relevant

1 information as determined by the commission.

2 Sec. 531.755. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING  
3 GRANTS. In determining whether to award a grant under this  
4 subchapter, the commission shall consider:

5 (1) the demonstrated need for an evidence-based youth  
6 development program in the community in which the applicant  
7 proposes to operate or expand the program, as determined by:

8 (A) the poverty rate;

9 (B) the crime rate;

10 (C) the school-age birth rate;

11 (D) the rate of drug and alcohol abuse; and

12 (E) the annual dropout rate for grades 7 through  
13 12;

14 (2) the applicant's ability to participate in ongoing  
15 monitoring and performance evaluations, including the applicant's  
16 ability to collect and provide information required by the  
17 commission;

18 (3) the applicant's ability to adhere to the  
19 evidence-based youth development program operating and performance  
20 standards;

21 (4) the applicant's ability to develop broad-based  
22 community support for implementing or expanding an evidence-based  
23 youth development program, as applicable; and

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

27 Sec. 531.756. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1 STANDARDS. The executive commissioner, in accordance with the  
2 goals and requirements established by this subchapter, shall adopt  
3 standards for an evidence-based youth development program awarded a  
4 grant under this subchapter.

5 Sec. 531.757. USE OF AWARDED GRANT FUNDS. The grant funds  
6 awarded under this subchapter may be used only to cover costs  
7 related to implementing, expanding, or operating an evidence-based  
8 youth development program, including costs related to:

9 (1) administering the program, including:

10 (A) appropriate local site selection; and

11 (B) required evaluation and quality monitoring;

12 (2) training and managing staff;

13 (3) paying staff salaries and expenses; and

14 (4) paying for program facilities and equipment.

15 Sec. 531.758. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
16 MONITORING AND EVALUATION; COMMITTEE REPORT. (a) The executive  
17 commissioner shall adopt performance indicators designed to  
18 measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to the  
19 evidence-based youth development program standards adopted by the  
20 executive commissioner under Section 531.756.

21 (b) The commission shall use the performance indicators to  
22 monitor and evaluate the performance of each grant recipient.

23 (c) Not later than December 1, 2010, the commission shall  
24 submit a report to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,  
25 or its successor, and the House Human Services Committee, or its  
26 successor, regarding the performance of each grant recipient with  
27 respect to providing evidence-based youth development program

1 services, including:

2 (1) the number of low-income adolescents served by an  
3 evidence-based youth development program and, of that number, the  
4 number of adolescents who subsequently became pregnant or caused a  
5 pregnancy; and

6 (2) any other information required by the commission.

7 (d) On request, each grant recipient shall timely collect  
8 and provide data and any other information required by the  
9 commission to monitor and evaluate the recipient or to prepare the  
10 report required by this section.

11 Sec. 531.759. EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMPETITIVE  
12 GRANT PILOT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The commission shall actively  
13 seek and apply for any available federal funds or grants from any  
14 source to assist in financing the competitive grant pilot program  
15 established under this subchapter.

16 (b) The commission may use appropriated funds and may accept  
17 gifts, donations, and grants of money from the federal government,  
18 local governments, private corporations, or other persons to assist  
19 in financing the competitive grant pilot program.

20 Sec. 531.760. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires  
21 September 1, 2011.

22 SECTION 2. (a) The Health and Human Services Commission  
23 shall, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act,  
24 apply for any available funds or grants to assist in financing the  
25 evidence-based youth development competitive grant pilot program  
26 created by this Act.

27 (b) Not later than December 1, 2009, the Health and Human

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1 Services Commission shall establish and implement the  
2 evidence-based youth development competitive grant pilot program  
3 created by this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.