

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1613

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing an Early Childhood Behavioral Consultation Grant Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 3, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Chapter 75 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 75. EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL CONSULTATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 75.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Health and Human Services Commission.

(2) "Office" means the commission's Office of Early Childhood Coordination.

Sec. 75.002. EARLY CHILDHOOD BEHAVIORAL CONSULTATION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a grant program and award grants for the implementation of programs to provide early childhood behavioral consultation services to certain licensed child-care facilities.

(b) The office shall administer the grant program and award grants to applicants in a manner that ensures that the programs operate in multiple communities that are geographically diverse.

Sec. 75.003. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. A program funded by a grant awarded under this chapter must:

(1) employ an early childhood behavioral consultant who:

1           (A) holds a degree, credential, or certification  
2 related to early childhood services considered appropriate by the  
3 grantee in accordance with the guidance of the office;

4           (B) provides to child-care providers services  
5 designed to:

6                   (i) increase and expand providers'  
7 knowledge regarding the provision of safe and developmentally  
8 appropriate care to children less than three years of age;

9                   (ii) increase the child-care staff's  
10 ability to appropriately address challenging behaviors;

11                   (iii) increase the competencies of  
12 caregivers and parents of at-risk children in child-care settings;

13                   (iv) improve the social, emotional, and  
14 behavioral functioning of at-risk children in child-care settings;  
15 and

16                   (v) prevent young children who display  
17 challenging or atypical behaviors from being removed from their  
18 child-care settings;

19           (C) provides additional appropriate services as  
20 necessary, that may include:

21                   (i) on-site consultations and technical  
22 assistance;

23                   (ii) program assessment;

24                   (iii) social-emotional screening or  
25 assessment;

26                   (iv) training for child-care providers and  
27 caregivers;

1                   (v) facilitating parent-provider  
2 conferences;

3                   (vi) facilitating parent and provider  
4 support groups; and

5                   (vii) linking providers and families to  
6 services and resources within the community; and

7                   (D) works with regional child-care licensing  
8 offices to identify and solicit voluntary participation of  
9 child-care providers in the program; and

10                  (2) facilitate or participate in a community-based  
11 coordinating group, comprised of persons in the region with  
12 expertise in early childhood services, including technical  
13 assistance and support services, that shall:

14                   (A) conduct a community assessment or  
15 environmental survey related to early childhood services in the  
16 region;

17                   (B) develop a strategic plan to improve the  
18 coordination and delivery of services and supports to child-care  
19 facilities and the children they serve;

20                   (C) assist in identifying potential early  
21 childhood behavioral consultants available to assist child-care  
22 providers;

23                   (D) promote the development of additional early  
24 childhood behavioral consultants in rural areas;

25                   (E) identify local funding and other community  
26 resources available to assist providers in improving the safety and  
27 quality of the care provided to young children;

1           (F) identify challenges facing the regional  
2 population and identify and develop solutions to address those  
3 challenges; and

4           (G) help educate parents about quality infant and  
5 toddler care.

6           Sec. 75.004. APPLICATION FOR GRANT. (a) A public or  
7 private entity may apply for a grant.

8           (b) An applicant must submit a written application to the  
9 office on a form prescribed by the office that requires the  
10 applicant to provide:

11           (1) data on the number of child-care facilities  
12 located in the community in which the applicant proposes to  
13 operate;

14           (2) a description of existing early childhood services  
15 available to child-care facilities in that community;

16           (3) a description of existing child-care partnerships  
17 within the community in which the applicant proposes to operate;  
18 and

19           (4) any other relevant information as determined by  
20 the office.

21           Sec. 75.005. CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING GRANTS. (a) In  
22 determining whether to award a grant to an applicant, the office  
23 shall consider:

24           (1) the demonstrated need for an early childhood  
25 behavioral consultation program in the community in which the  
26 applicant proposes to operate, as determined by:

27           (A) the number of child-care facilities serving

1 children less than three years of age;

2 (B) the number of low-income children receiving  
3 subsidized child-care services;

4 (C) the number of children retained in  
5 kindergarten, first grade, and second grade; and

6 (D) the applicant's ability to participate in  
7 ongoing monitoring and performance evaluations, including the  
8 applicant's ability to collect and provide information requested by  
9 the office for evaluation purposes;

10 (2) the applicant's demonstrated history of:

11 (A) on-going relationships with the child-care  
12 provider population served;

13 (B) support from the child-care provider  
14 community;

15 (C) developing and sustaining innovative,  
16 high-quality programs that meet the needs of child-care providers  
17 and communities; and

18 (D) conducting program assessments, on-site  
19 consultations, meetings, training, and quality improvement  
20 projects with the child-care provider community; and

21 (3) the use of evidence-based, best practices within  
22 the applicant's program proposal.

23 (b) The office may require an applicant to demonstrate the  
24 applicant's ability to match funds received through the grant  
25 program. The office shall consult with early childhood  
26 stakeholders in determining the level of matching required of  
27 applicants.

1       Sec. 75.006. USE OF GRANT FUNDS. Grant funds awarded under  
2 this chapter may be used to pay only those costs related to  
3 implementing and operating an early childhood behavioral  
4 consultation program, including costs related to:

5           (1) administering the program;

6           (2) training and managing program consultants;

7           (3) paying the salaries and expenses of program  
8 consultants; and

9           (4) paying for services provided by outside  
10 consultants as needed.

11       Sec. 75.007. PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION; ANNUAL  
12 REPORT. (a) The office shall adopt performance indicators that are  
13 designed to measure a grant recipient's performance with respect to  
14 program standards adopted by the office.

15           (b) Not later than December 1 of each year, the office shall  
16 prepare and submit a report to the committees of the senate and  
17 house of representatives with primary jurisdiction over the  
18 commission. The report must address the performance of each grant  
19 recipient during the preceding state fiscal year with respect to  
20 providing early childhood behavioral consultation program  
21 services.

22       Sec. 75.008. GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING. (a) The commission  
23 shall actively seek and apply for any available federal funds to  
24 assist in financing the grant program established under this  
25 chapter.

26           (b) The commission may use appropriated funds from the state  
27 government and may accept gifts, donations, and grants of money

1 from the federal government, local governments, private  
2 corporations, or other persons to assist in financing the grant  
3 program.

4 SECTION 2. (a) As required by Section 75.008(a), Human  
5 Resources Code, as added by this Act, the Health and Human Services  
6 Commission shall, as soon as practicable, apply for any available  
7 federal funds to assist in financing the early childhood behavioral  
8 consultation grant program under Chapter 75, Human Resources Code,  
9 as added by this Act.

10 (b) Not later than December 1, 2010, the Health and Human  
11 Services Commission shall submit the initial annual report required  
12 by Section 75.007, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

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