

Amend SB 346 (senate committee printing) as follows:

(1) In SECTION 1 of the bill, in amended Section 134.004(a), Education Code (page 1, line 28), between "colleges," and "and", insert "eligible nonprofit organizations,".

(2) Add the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and renumber the SECTIONS of the bill appropriately:

SECTION _____. Section 134.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

SECTION _____. Chapter 134, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 134.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 134.005. GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS. (a) The commission may award a grant to a nonprofit organization eligible under Subsection (b) for the development, support, or expansion of programs to prepare low-income students for careers in high-demand occupations.

(b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization must:

(1) provide a program to offer assistance to low-income students in preparing for, applying to, and enrolling in a public junior college or public technical institute;

(2) be governed by a board or other governing structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based community organizations and members of the local business community;

(3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory board that the organization's program has achieved or will achieve the following measures of success among program participants to the extent applicable to the type of program the organization provides:

(A) above-average completion of developmental education among participating public junior college or public technical institute students;

(B) above-average persistence rates among participating public junior college or public technical institute

students;

(C) above-average certificate or degree completion rates by participating students within a three-year period compared to demographically comparable public junior college and public technical institute students; and

(D) employment of participating students at an average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than the prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

(4) provide matching funds in accordance with rules adopted under Section 134.008.

(c) The matching funds required under Subsection (b)(4) may be obtained from any source available to the nonprofit organization, including in-kind contributions, community or foundation grants, individual contributions, and local governmental agency operating funds.

(d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into consideration.