87R10452 GCB-D

By:  West S.B. No. 1390

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a grant program for municipal or county mental health crisis response team programs.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.09916 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.09916.  GRANT PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAMS. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Crisis intervention team" means a group of mental health professionals who provide services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

(2)  "Mental health crisis response team" means a crisis intervention team or a multidisciplinary crisis response team.

(3)  "Mental health crisis response team program" means a municipal or county program operated under a grant provided under this section.

(4)  "Multidisciplinary crisis response team" means a group composed of three or more persons that includes at least one paramedic, one law enforcement officer, and one mental health professional, who work together to provide services to persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

(b)  The executive commissioner shall establish and administer a grant program to grant money to municipalities and counties for the purpose of operating a mental health crisis response team program to:

(1)  operate one or more mental health crisis response teams in the municipality or county; and

(2)  employ one or more mental health professionals to:

(A)  screen calls made to a 9-1-1 emergency call center dispatcher for law enforcement or emergency medical assistance;

(B)  determine whether to dispatch a mental health crisis response team to service a call; and

(C)  consult with and provide information to the dispatched mental health crisis response team.

(c)  A grant application from a municipality or county to the commission must be submitted on a form prescribed by the commission and include a statement from the governing body of the municipality or county regarding the municipal or county proposal to establish a mental health crisis response team program. The application must require the inclusion of the results of an assessment conducted to determine:

(1)  the number of mental health-related calls for assistance received by the municipality's or county's 9-1-1 emergency call center;

(2)  the number of paramedics and mental health professionals available to serve on a municipality's or county's mental health crisis response team; and

(3)  the municipality's or county's capability to accurately collect and report information concerning:

(A)  the frequency and outcomes of mental health-related calls for assistance; and

(B)  the number of calls for assistance primarily identified as involving a criminal offense but that also involved a demonstrated need for mental health intervention, services, crisis referrals, or de-escalation for the person making the call or for a person who was the subject of a call made by another.

(d)  Two or more political subdivisions eligible to apply for a grant under this section may enter an agreement to:

(1)  jointly apply for a grant under this section; and

(2)  if awarded a grant, jointly operate a regional mental health crisis response team to serve a region composed of territory of those political subdivisions.

(e)  In addition to funding received under a grant under this section, a municipality or county may contribute local funds to the operation of the municipality's or county's mobile crisis response team program, including a team operated under an agreement under Subsection (d).

(f)  The commission may use any available state and federal money and may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source for the purpose of providing grants under this section.

(g)  The executive commissioner shall adopt all rules necessary for the establishment of the grant program under this section.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement Section 531.09916, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.