

By: Klick, et al.

H.B. No. 400

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to innovation grant programs to support residency training programs in psychiatric specialty fields and recruitment, training, and retention programs in behavioral health fields.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 58A, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 58A.071. PSYCHIATRIC SPECIALTY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM. Subject to available funds, the board shall establish an innovation grant program under which the board awards incentive payments to medical schools that administer innovative residency training programs designed to increase the number of physicians in this state who specialize in pediatric or adult psychiatric care.

Sec. 58A.072. FEDERAL FUNDS AND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. In addition to other money appropriated by the legislature, for the purpose of promoting pediatric or adult psychiatric care under the program established under this subchapter the board may:

(1) seek and apply for any available federal funds;

and

(2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any other source, public or private, as necessary to ensure effective implementation of the program.

1       Sec. 58A.073. RULES. In consultation with each medical  
2 school in this state, the board shall adopt rules for the  
3 administration of the program established under this  
4 subchapter. The rules must include:

5           (1) administrative provisions relating to the  
6 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

7                   (A) eligibility criteria for medical schools,  
8 including a requirement that the medical school demonstrate  
9 regional and state workforce need;

10                   (B) grant application procedures;

11                   (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

12                   (D) procedures for evaluating grant  
13 applications; and

14                   (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;  
15 and

16           (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants  
17 that:

18                   (A) using data reasonably available to the board,  
19 consider relevant information regarding the career paths of medical  
20 school graduates during the four-year period following their  
21 graduation; and

22                   (B) evaluate whether and for how long those  
23 graduates practice in a psychiatric specialty field in this state.

24       Sec. 58A.074. AWARD OF GRANTS. (a) In awarding grants  
25 under the program, the board shall award:

26           (1) 60 percent of the amount available in each program  
27 year to medical schools with innovative residency programs that

1 train physicians to specialize in pediatric psychiatric care; and  
2 (2) 40 percent of the amount available in each program  
3 year to medical schools with innovative residency programs that  
4 train physicians to specialize in adult psychiatric care.

5 (b) Within each category of grants prescribed by Subsection  
6 (a), the board shall give priority to grants to medical schools with  
7 innovative residency programs based in rural or underserved areas.

8 Sec. 58A.075. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a grant awarded  
9 under this subchapter may not exceed \$1 million.

10 Sec. 58A.076. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. A medical school  
11 that receives a grant awarded under this subchapter shall submit to  
12 the board an annual report on the amounts and purposes for which  
13 grant funds were spent during the year covered by the report.

14 Sec. 58A.077. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,  
15 not to exceed five percent, of any general revenue appropriated for  
16 purposes of this subchapter may be used by the board to pay the  
17 costs of administering this subchapter.

18 SECTION 2. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
19 Subchapter RR to read as follows:

20 SUBCHAPTER RR. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM

21 Sec. 61.9991. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.  
22 Subject to available funds, the board shall establish an innovation  
23 grant program under which the board awards incentive payments to  
24 institutions of higher education that administer innovative  
25 recruitment, training, and retention programs designed to increase  
26 the number of mental health professionals, as defined by Section  
27 61.601, or professionals in related fields, as determined by the

1 board, including by providing a salary increase or stipend to a  
2 faculty member who provides instruction to additional students in a  
3 degree or certificate program that graduates those professionals.

4 Sec. 61.9992. FEDERAL FUNDS AND GIFTS, GRANTS, AND  
5 DONATIONS. In addition to other money appropriated by the  
6 legislature, for the purpose of increasing the behavioral health  
7 workforce in this state under the program established under this  
8 subchapter the board may:

9 (1) seek and apply for any available federal funds;

10 and

11 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations  
12 from any other source, public or private, as necessary to ensure  
13 effective implementation of the program.

14 Sec. 61.9993. RULES. (a) The board shall adopt rules for  
15 the administration of the program established under this  
16 subchapter. In adopting the rules, the board shall solicit from the  
17 Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council information necessary to  
18 identify programs anticipated to produce the best outcomes and  
19 serve the greatest need.

20 (b) The rules must include:

21 (1) administrative provisions relating to the  
22 awarding of grants under this subchapter, such as:

23 (A) eligibility criteria for institutions of  
24 higher education, including a requirement that the institution  
25 demonstrate regional and state workforce need;

26 (B) grant application procedures;

27 (C) guidelines relating to grant amounts;

1                   (D) procedures for evaluating grant  
2 applications; and

3                   (E) procedures for monitoring the use of grants;  
4 and

5                   (2) methods for tracking the effectiveness of grants  
6 that:

7                   (A) using data reasonably available to the board,  
8 consider relevant information regarding the career paths of  
9 professionals described by Section 61.9991 during the four-year  
10 period following their graduation; and

11                   (B) evaluate whether and for how long those  
12 professionals practice in a field described by Section 61.9991 in  
13 this state.

14                   Sec. 61.9994. AWARD OF GRANTS. In awarding grants under the  
15 program, the board shall give priority to applicants that propose  
16 to:

17                   (1) enhance or leverage existing degree programs that  
18 graduate professionals described by Section 61.9991;

19                   (2) establish or maintain a program that serves a  
20 rural or underserved area;

21                   (3) partner with:

22                   (A) another institution of higher education to  
23 develop a joint program; or

24                   (B) a public school to implement early  
25 recruitment in high school;

26                   (4) establish or maintain a program that incentivizes  
27 professionals described by Section 61.9991 to serve in their field

1 or a related field of study for at least three consecutive years  
2 following graduation in an inpatient or outpatient behavioral  
3 health facility or program that receives state funding;

4 (5) establish or maintain a degree or certificate  
5 program to educate professionals in specialties that face  
6 significant workforce shortages, including those described by  
7 Section 61.601; or

8 (6) establish or maintain psychiatric fellowship  
9 programs that serve correctional facilities or inpatient  
10 psychiatric facilities.

11 Sec. 61.9995. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a grant awarded  
12 under this subchapter may not exceed \$1 million.

13 Sec. 61.9996. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. An institution of  
14 higher education that receives a grant awarded under this  
15 subchapter shall submit to the board an annual report on the amounts  
16 and purposes for which grant funds were spent during the year  
17 covered by the report.

18 Sec. 61.9997. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. A reasonable amount,  
19 not to exceed five percent, of any general revenue appropriated for  
20 purposes of this subchapter may be used by the board to pay the  
21 costs of administering this subchapter.

22 SECTION 3. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective  
23 date of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
24 shall adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the  
25 innovation grant programs established under Subchapter D, Chapter  
26 58A, Education Code, and Subchapter RR, Chapter 61, Education Code,  
27 as added by this Act.

1           (b) Not later than September 1, 2024, the Texas Higher  
2 Education Coordinating Board shall establish the innovation grant  
3 programs required by Subchapter D, Chapter 58A, Education Code, and  
4 Subchapter RR, Chapter 61, Education Code, as added by this Act, and  
5 shall begin to award grants under each program as soon as  
6 practicable after the program is established.

7           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.