

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 3965

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to authorizing the establishment of community child-care collaboratives and establishing a grant program for those collaboratives administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Title 10, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 2308B to read as follows:

CHAPTER 2308B. COMMUNITY CHILD-CARE COLLABORATIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 2308B.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Workforce Commission.

(2) "Community child-care collaborative" means a group of public, private, and nonprofit organizations working to expand child-care capacity in this state.

(3) "Priority area" means an area:

(A) where the number of children younger than six years of age who have working parents is at least three times greater than the capacity of licensed child-care providers in the area; or

(B) determined by the commission to be underserved with respect to child-care providers.

Sec. 2308B.002. COMMUNITY CHILD-CARE COLLABORATIVE GRANTS. (a) To the extent funds are appropriated to the commission for that purpose, the commission shall develop a grant

1 program for eligible community child-care collaboratives that may
2 include a combination of local governmental entities, nonprofit
3 community organizations, economic development agencies, local
4 employers, licensed child-care providers, and faith-based
5 community organizations to establish or expand quality child-care
6 capacity in priority areas through partnerships between local
7 stakeholders and qualified providers.

8 (b) Each grant shall fund community child-care
9 collaboratives that are designed to:

10 (1) bring together public and private sector partners
11 to address child-care needs in this state;

12 (2) increase the number of licensed, high-quality
13 child-care providers available to serve communities in priority
14 areas;

15 (3) oversee ongoing child-care operations; and

16 (4) produce any other outcomes the commission
17 considers necessary for the success of the grant program.

18 (c) The grant program may not award more than five grants
19 each year.

20 (d) The commission shall develop a competitive application
21 process for the grant program.

22 (e) The commission shall require each applicant for a grant
23 to:

24 (1) provide evidence of substantial coordination and
25 partnership between the lead grant applicant and local
26 municipalities, employers, child-care providers, and other
27 community stakeholders in the formation, operation, and oversight

1 of the community child-care collaborative;

2 (2) clearly demonstrate the community child-care
3 collaborative's plan to provide licensed child-care services
4 through child-care facilities and family homes licensed,
5 registered, or listed under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code;

6 (3) include in the application the applicant's
7 proposed structure for governance and oversight of the community
8 child-care collaborative; and

9 (4) list all possible additional resources from public
10 or private sources that may be used to sustain the community
11 child-care collaborative and the effort to continue providing
12 child-care services after the initial grant period has expired.

13 Sec. 2308B.003. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. The commission shall
14 establish standards for the grant program that require a grant
15 recipient to:

16 (1) increase licensed child-care capacity in a
17 priority area by a minimum of 50 children;

18 (2) apply for and receive approval to operate a
19 licensed child-care facility or facilities that will meet the
20 minimum requirements established by the commission;

21 (3) demonstrate high-quality early childhood
22 education practices by participating in the Texas Rising Star
23 program;

24 (4) serve children supported through child-care
25 subsidies;

26 (5) collaborate with partners to ensure working
27 families can access and afford child care that meets their needs;

1 (6) govern and oversee ongoing child-care operations;

2 and

3 (7) meet other standards the commission considers
4 necessary for the success of the grant program.

5 Sec. 2308B.004. ACCEPTABLE USES OF GRANT MONEY. An entity
6 shall use money received from a grant under this chapter to
7 establish a community child-care collaborative to expand
8 child-care capacity. Acceptable uses for the money include:

9 (1) planning and developing child-care
10 infrastructure, including construction, renovation, land
11 acquisition, permits, furniture, and other supplies;

12 (2) establishing, operating, or maintaining expanded
13 child-care capacity in the community served by the community
14 child-care collaborative, including child-care facilities and
15 family homes licensed, registered, or listed under Chapter 42,
16 Human Resources Code;

17 (3) providing services to ensure child-care
18 facilities supported through the grant program follow and comply
19 with all requirements under Chapter 42, Human Resources Code, that
20 are applicable to the provider;

21 (4) establishing a competitive application process to
22 select child-care providers with proven experience providing child
23 care in this state;

24 (5) providing professional development and business
25 administration for the child-care providers selected by the
26 community child-care collaborative;

27 (6) developing and distributing coordinated

1 marketing, enrollment, and capacity reporting to the community
2 served by the community child-care collaborative;

3 (7) providing scholarships for families to assist with
4 the overall affordability of quality child care; and

5 (8) other allowable uses the commission considers
6 necessary for the success of the grant program.

7 Sec. 2308B.005. OUTCOME MEASURES FOR COMMUNITY CHILD-CARE
8 COLLABORATIVES. Each community child-care collaborative that
9 receives a grant from the commission to establish or expand child
10 care shall:

11 (1) increase child-care capacity in the priority area
12 by adding at least 50 new licensed capacity slots;

13 (2) open a child-care facility licensed under Chapter
14 42, Human Resources Code, and in compliance with all applicable
15 federal, state, and local regulations; and

16 (3) report, in accordance with the grant program
17 requirements developed by the commission, on the impact of the
18 program in the following areas:

19 (A) child development outcomes;

20 (B) parental engagement;

21 (C) engagement with employers within the
22 priority area; and

23 (D) any other outcomes the commission considers
24 necessary for the success of the grant program.

25 Sec. 2308B.006. REVIEW OF OUTCOME MEASURES. Not later than
26 July 15 of each year for which a grant has been awarded, each entity
27 operating a community child-care collaborative shall review the

1 performance of the entity's collaborative outcomes under Section
2 2308B.005 and report to the commission regarding the entity's
3 findings.

4 Sec. 2308B.007. RULES. The commission shall adopt any
5 rules necessary to implement the community child-care
6 collaborative grant program established under this chapter,
7 including rules regarding:

8 (1) grant program eligibility;

9 (2) the required elements of a community child-care
10 collaborative; and

11 (3) permissible and prohibited uses of funds received
12 by an entity from a grant made under this chapter.

13 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.