

By: Lujan

H.B. No. 1621

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a matching grant program for technological enhancements at hospitals providing mental health care services.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 547, Government Code, as effective April 1, 2025, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS AT HOSPITALS PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Sec. 547.0501. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only to:

(1) a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code; or

(2) a hospital licensed under Chapter 577, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 547.0502. ESTABLISHMENT OF MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM. The commission shall establish a matching grant program to enhance the technological capabilities of hospitals providing mental health care services in this state.

Sec. 547.0503. ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT AWARD. To be eligible for a grant under this subchapter, a hospital must:

(1) demonstrate the hospital's planned uses for the grant money and matching funds to improve the quality of and access to mental health care services in this state;

(2) align with the interoperability and technology

1 standards in the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. No. 114-255); and  
2 (3) meet any additional eligibility criteria the  
3 commission establishes.

4 Sec. 547.0504. HOSPITAL MATCHING REQUIREMENT. (a) The  
5 commission shall condition each grant provided to a hospital under  
6 this subchapter on the hospital providing funds from non-state  
7 sources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the grant amount.

8 (b) To raise the required non-state sourced funds, the  
9 hospital may seek and receive gifts, grants, or donations from any  
10 person.

11 Sec. 547.0505. ACCEPTABLE USES OF GRANT MONEY AND MATCHING  
12 FUNDS. A hospital awarded a grant under this subchapter may use the  
13 grant money and matching funds to:

14 (1) purchase a data recording platform for certified  
15 electronic health data;

16 (2) expand the interoperability of health information  
17 in the hospital or as part of a network with other health care  
18 providers;

19 (3) expand a patient's access to the patient's digital  
20 health records and mental health care services;

21 (4) improve information technology infrastructure for  
22 data privacy and patient information security, including consent  
23 management; and

24 (5) improve the efficiency of mental health care  
25 service provision through the use and interconnectivity of mobile  
26 devices.

27 Sec. 547.0506. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The

1 commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from  
2 any source to award grants under this subchapter.

3 Sec. 547.0507. BIENNIAL REPORT. Not later than December 1  
4 of each even-numbered year, the commission shall submit a report to  
5 the legislature regarding the results of the matching grant program  
6 administered under this subchapter.

7 Sec. 547.0508. RULES. The commission may adopt any rules  
8 necessary to implement this subchapter.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.