

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 151

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a matching grant program for technological enhancements at certain health care facilities that provide mental health care services.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 531.09915 to read as follows:

Sec. 531.09915. MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENTS AT CERTAIN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES PROVIDING MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES. (a) In this section, "health care facility" means:

(1) a hospital licensed under Chapter 241, Health and Safety Code, that is located in a rural county; or

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

(b) The commission shall establish a matching grant program for the purpose of enhancing the technological capabilities of health care facilities providing mental health care services in this state.

(c) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a health care facility must:

(1) demonstrate how the grant money and matching funds will be used to improve the quality of and access to mental health care services in this state;

1           (2) align with the interoperability and technology  
2 standards in the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. No. 114-255); and

3           (3) meet any other additional eligibility criteria  
4 established by the commission.

5           (d) The commission shall condition each grant provided to a  
6 health care facility under this section on the facility providing  
7 funds from non-state sources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the  
8 grant amount.

9           (e) To raise the required non-state sourced funds, the  
10 health care facility may seek and receive gifts, grants, or  
11 donations from any person.

12           (f) A health care facility awarded a grant under this  
13 section may only use the grant money and matching funds to:

14           (1) purchase a recordkeeping platform that uses a  
15 certified electronic health record;

16           (2) expand the interoperability of health information  
17 in the health care facility or as part of a network with other  
18 health care 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  
22 regarding the data privacy and security of patient information,  
23 including consent management; and

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

27           (g) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and

1 donations from any source for the purposes of awarding grants under  
2 this section.

3 (h) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
4 the commission shall submit a report to the legislature regarding  
5 the results of the grant program administered under this section.

6 (i) The commission may adopt any rules necessary to  
7 implement this section.

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