
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5360

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Brandland, Franklin, Murray, Brown, Ranker, Fraser, Parlette, and Kohl-Welles)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to community health care collaborative grants;
2 adding new sections to chapter 41.05 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) The community health care collaborative grant program is
7 established to further the efforts of community-based coalitions to
8 increase access to appropriate, affordable health care for Washington
9 residents, particularly employed low-income persons and children in
10 school who are uninsured and underinsured, through local programs
11 addressing one or more of the following: (a) Access to medical
12 treatment; (b) the efficient use of health care resources; and (c)
13 quality of care.

14 (2) Consistent with funds appropriated for community health care
15 collaborative grants specifically for this purpose, two-year grants may
16 be awarded pursuant to section 2 of this act by the administrator of
17 the health care authority.

18 (3) The health care authority shall provide administrative support
19 for the program. Administrative support activities may include health

1 care authority facilitation of statewide discussions regarding best
2 practices and standardized performance measures among grantees, or
3 subcontracting for such discussions.

4 (4) Eligibility for community health care collaborative grants
5 shall be limited to nonprofit organizations established to serve a
6 defined geographic region. To be eligible, a nonprofit or public
7 organization must have a formal collaborative governance structure and
8 decision-making process that includes representation by the following
9 health care providers: Hospitals, public health, behavioral health,
10 community health centers, rural health clinics, and private
11 practitioners that serve low-income persons in the region, unless there
12 are no such providers within the region, or providers decline or refuse
13 to participate or place unreasonable conditions on their participation.
14 The nature and format of the application, and the application
15 procedure, shall be determined by the administrator of the health care
16 authority. At a minimum, each application shall: (a) Identify the
17 geographic region served by the organization; (b) show how the
18 structure and operation of the organization reflects the interests of,
19 and is accountable to, this region and members providing care within
20 this region; (c) indicate the size of the grant being requested, and
21 how the money will be spent; and (d) include sufficient information for
22 an evaluation of the application based on the criteria established in
23 section 2 of this act.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
25 to read as follows:

26 (1) The community health care collaborative grants shall be awarded
27 on a competitive basis based on a determination of which applicant
28 organization will best serve the purposes of the grant program
29 established in section 1 of this act. In making this determination,
30 priority for funding shall be given to the applicants that demonstrate:

31 (a) The initiatives to be supported by the community health care
32 collaborative grant are likely to address, in a measurable fashion,
33 documented health care access and quality improvement goals aligned
34 with state health policy priorities and needs within the region to be
35 served;

36 (b) The applicant organization must document formal, active
37 collaboration among key community partners that includes local

1 governments, school districts, large and small businesses, nonprofit
2 organizations, tribal governments, carriers, private health care
3 providers, and public health agencies;

4 (c) The applicant organization will match the community health care
5 collaborative grant with funds from other sources. The health care
6 authority may award grants solely to organizations providing at least
7 two dollars in matching funds for each community health care
8 collaborative grant dollar awarded;

9 (d) The community health care collaborative grant will enhance the
10 long-term capacity of the applicant organization and its members to
11 serve the region's documented health care access needs, including the
12 sustainability of the programs to be supported by the community health
13 care collaborative grant;

14 (e) The initiatives to be supported by the community health care
15 collaborative grant reflect creative, innovative approaches which
16 complement and enhance existing efforts to address the needs of the
17 uninsured and underinsured and, if successful, could be replicated in
18 other areas of the state; and

19 (f) The programs to be supported by the community health care
20 collaborative grant make efficient and cost-effective use of available
21 funds through administrative simplification and improvements in the
22 structure and operation of the health care delivery system.

23 (2) The administrator of the health care authority shall endeavor
24 to disburse community health care collaborative grant funds throughout
25 the state, supporting collaborative initiatives of differing sizes and
26 scales, serving at-risk populations.

27 (3) Grants shall be disbursed over a two-year cycle, provided the
28 grant recipient consistently provides timely reports that demonstrate
29 the program is satisfactorily meeting the purposes of the grant and the
30 objectives identified in the organization's application. The
31 requirements for the performance reports shall be determined by the
32 health care authority administrator. The performance measures shall be
33 aligned with the community health care collaborative grant program
34 goals and, where possible, shall be consistent with statewide policy
35 trends and outcome measures required by other public and private grant
36 funders.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 41.05 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 By July 1st of each even-numbered fiscal year the administrator of
4 the health care authority shall provide the governor and the
5 legislature with an evaluation of the community health care
6 collaborative grant program, describing the organizations and
7 collaborative initiatives funded and the results achieved. The report
8 shall include the impact of the program, results of performance
9 measures, general findings, and recommendations.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The health care authority may adopt rules to
11 implement this act.

--- END ---