



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4665

Introduced 2/6/2024, by Rep. Lindsey LaPointe

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act
20 ILCS 301/55-31 new
30 ILCS 105/5.1015 new

Creates the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Professional Support Grant Program Act. Creates within the Department of Human Services a Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Professional Support Grant Program to provide grants to mental health facilities and substance use disorder treatment programs. Creates the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Professional Support Grant Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. Provides that money in the Fund shall be used by the Secretary of the Department to make grants to eligible mental health facilities and substance use disorder treatment programs. Requires grant recipients to use grant funds for expenses related to recruiting, retaining, and compensating licensed mental health or substance use disorder professionals. Provides that each grant recipient shall receive up to \$200,000 in grant funding for each mental health or substance use disorder professional employed, engaged, or contracted by the recipient. Contains provisions concerning application requirements and Department rulemaking authority. Amends the Substance Use Disorder Act. Provides that the amendatory provisions may be referred to as the Equity in Accessibility Law. Requires the Department to provide funding and reimbursement for those costs associated with the provision of American Sign Language services and interpretive services for non-English speaking patients at substance use disorder treatment programs and facilities. Provides that funding and reimbursement shall be based upon the actual cost incurred by the substance use disorder treatment program or facility and shall reflect regional differences in costs and expenses related to the provision of American Sign Language and interpretive services at each location. Contains provisions on applications requirements and Department rulemaking authority. Effective immediately.

LRB103 36136 KTG 66227 b

1 AN ACT concerning mental health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Mental
5 Health and Substance Use Disorder Professional Support Grant
6 Program Act.

7 Section 5. Legislative findings. The General Assembly
8 finds that:

9 (1) The cost related to employing and retaining licensed
10 mental health and substance use disorder professionals at
11 community mental health centers, behavioral health clinics,
12 and community-based substance use disorder programs have risen
13 at dramatic rates in the past few years due to the short supply
14 of qualified individuals, the public health emergency, and the
15 increase in the need for mental health and substance use
16 disorder services and treatment.

17 (2) The financial resources relied upon by community
18 mental health centers, behavioral health clinics, and
19 community-based substance use disorder programs, including
20 State and federal funding and reimbursement under the Medicaid
21 program, grant awards, and reimbursements from commercial
22 insurance, have not kept pace with the increase in costs
23 associated with the employment and retention of licensed

1 mental health and substance use disorder professionals.

2 (3) Mental health and substance use disorder professionals
3 are necessary to provide treatment and supervision of other
4 staff in community mental health centers, behavioral health
5 clinics, and substance use disorder treatment programs.

6 (4) The supply of such licensed professionals has not kept
7 pace with the demand for their services and the behavioral
8 health professional shortage has caused a crisis in the
9 availability and capacity to provide necessary mental health
10 and substance use disorder treatment and services.

11 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

12 "Mental health facility" has the same meaning ascribed to
13 that term in Section 1-114 of the Mental Health and
14 Developmental Disabilities Code when used in reference to a
15 facility that provides community-based mental health disorder
16 treatment.

17 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

18 "Mental health or substance use disorder professional" or
19 "professional" means a psychiatrist, physician, advanced
20 practice registered nurse, physician assistant, registered
21 nurse, licensed practical nurse, phlebotomist, medical
22 assistant, and emergency medical technician-basic.

23 Section 15. Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
24 Professional Support Grant Program.

1 (a) There is created within the Department a Mental Health
2 and Substance Use Disorder Professional Support Grant Program
3 to provide grants to the following recipients:

4 (1) mental health facilities; and

5 (2) substance use disorder treatment programs licensed
6 by the Department.

7 (b) The Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
8 Professional Support Grant Fund is created as a special fund
9 in the State treasury. The Fund shall consist of any moneys
10 appropriated into the Fund for the purposes of this Act.
11 Subject to appropriation, moneys in the Fund shall be
12 disbursed by the Secretary of the Department to make grants to
13 eligible recipients as provided in subsection (a). All
14 interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall be deposited into
15 the Fund.

16 (c) Recipients eligible for grants under this Section
17 shall use the grants for expenses related to recruiting,
18 retaining, and compensating licensed mental health or
19 substance use disorder professionals. Grants shall be used to
20 offset expenses associated with such professionals that are
21 incurred by the recipient.

22 (d) Each recipient shall be eligible for up to \$200,000 in
23 grant funding for each professional employed, engaged, or
24 contracted by the recipient.

25 (e) Applicants seeking grants under this Act shall apply
26 to the Department in a form and manner prescribed by the

1 Department. Recipients shall not be required to demonstrate
2 the need for grant funds associated with engaging or retaining
3 professionals, if they meet all other applicable State
4 licensing or certification requirements.

5 (f) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
6 implement this Act.

7 Section 90. The Substance Use Disorder Act is amended by
8 adding Section 55-31 as follows:

9 (20 ILCS 301/55-31 new)

10 Sec. 55-31. Sign language services and funding for
11 non-English speaking patients.

12 (a) This Section may be referred to as the Equity in
13 Accessibility Law. The Department shall provide funding and
14 reimbursement for those costs associated with the provision of
15 American Sign Language services and interpretive services for
16 non-English speaking patients at substance use disorder
17 treatment programs and facilities. The funding and
18 reimbursement shall be based upon the actual cost incurred by
19 the substance use disorder treatment program or facility and
20 shall reflect regional differences in costs and expenses
21 related to the provision of American Sign Language and
22 interpretive services at each location.

23 (b) Applicants seeking funding under this Section shall
24 apply to the Department in a form and manner prescribed by the

1 Department. The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
2 implement this Section.

3 Section 95. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
4 Section 5.1015 as follows:

5 (30 ILCS 105/5.1015 new)

6 Sec. 5.1015. The Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
7 Professional Support Grant Fund.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.