

CHAPTER 2019-154

House Bill No. 1045

An act relating to Closing the Gap grant proposals; amending s. 381.7354, F.S.; removing provisions related to Front Porch Florida Communities; amending s. 381.7355, F.S.; adding a priority area that may be addressed in a Closing the Gap grant proposal; amending s. 381.7356, F.S.; removing provisions related to Front Porch Florida Communities; prohibiting the Department of Health from establishing a minimum amount or a maximum amount for Closing the Gap grants; requiring the department to base the amount of each award on the merits of each application and to award grants to applicants in various regions of the state; authorizing the Closing the Gap program and the HIV/AIDS program to promote synergistic initiatives that reduce HIV incidence in minority populations in certain metropolitan areas; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 381.7354, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.7354 Eligibility.—

(1) Any person, entity, or organization within a county may apply for a Closing the Gap grant and may serve as the lead agency to administer and coordinate project activities within the county and develop community partnerships necessary to implement the grant.

(2) Persons, entities, or organizations within adjoining counties with populations of less than 100,000, based on the annual estimates produced by the Population Program of the University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, may jointly submit a multicounty Closing the Gap grant proposal. However, the proposal must clearly identify a single lead agency with respect to program accountability and administration.

~~(3) In addition to the grants awarded under subsections (1) and (2), up to 20 percent of the funding for the Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Closing the Gap grant program shall be dedicated to projects that address improving racial and ethnic health status within specific Front Porch Florida Communities.~~

~~(3)~~(4) Nothing in ss. 381.7351-381.7356 shall prevent a person, entity, or organization within a county or group of counties from separately contracting for the provision of racial and ethnic health promotion, health awareness, and disease prevention services.

Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 381.7355, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

381.7355 Project requirements; review criteria.—

(2) A proposal must include each of the following elements:

(a) The purpose and objectives of the proposal, including identification of the particular racial or ethnic disparity the project will address. The proposal must address one or more of the following priority areas:

1. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and infant mortality rates.

2. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to cancer.

3. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to HIV/AIDS.

4. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to cardiovascular disease.

5. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to diabetes.

6. Increasing adult and child immunization rates in certain racial and ethnic populations.

7. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in oral health care.

8. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to sickle cell disease.

9. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to Lupus.

10. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

~~11.10. Improving~~ Improve neighborhood social determinants of health, such as transportation, safety, and food access, as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Tools for Putting Social Determinants of Health into Action."

(b) Identification and relevance of the target population.

(c) Methods for obtaining baseline health status data and assessment of community health needs.

(d) Mechanisms for mobilizing community resources and gaining local commitment.

(e) Development and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention interventions.

(f) Mechanisms and strategies for evaluating the project’s objectives, procedures, and outcomes.

(g) A proposed work plan, including a timeline for implementing the project.

(h) Likelihood that project activities will occur and continue in the absence of funding.

Section 3. Present subsections (4) and (5) of section 381.7356, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5) and (6), respectively, new subsections (4) and (5) are added to that section, and subsection (1) of that section is amended, to read:

381.7356 Local matching funds; grant awards.—

(1) One or more Closing the Gap grants may be awarded in a county, or in a group of adjoining counties from which a multicounty application is submitted. ~~Front Porch Florida Communities grants may also be awarded in a county or group of adjoining counties that are also receiving a grant award.~~

(4) The department may not establish a minimum amount or a maximum amount for grants and shall determine the amount of each award based on the merits of the application. The department shall ensure that grants are awarded to applicants in various regions of this state.

(5) In addition to the requirements provided in s. 381.7353, and subject to the availability of state and federal funds in the HIV/AIDS program, the department shall promote synergistic initiatives between the Closing the Gap grant program and the HIV/AIDS program to leverage the expertise of the Closing the Gap grant program. These initiatives may include the establishment of a supplemental grant program whereby persons, entities, or organizations eligible for a Closing the Gap grant under s. 381.7354 may submit to the department a grant proposal, pursuant to the application process established under s. 381.7355, for funding to further the purposes listed in s. 381.7355(2)(a) and to promote innovative prevention, treatment, and awareness initiatives for minority populations in metropolitan areas which have a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS for the purposes of reducing the incidence of the HIV infection in such communities and prioritizing the identification of individuals, in a manner consistent with the clinical guidelines of the federal Health Resources and Services Administration, who are not yet aware of their HIV status.

Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 26, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 26, 2019.