

House Bill 1504

Behavioral health pilot programs and training support grant program

Purpose

ESSHB 1504 appropriated funds to the Health Care Authority to establish three behavioral health workforce pilot programs and a training support grants program for community Mental Health providers, including clinical social workers, licensed mental health counselors, licensed marriage and family therapists, clinical psychologist, and substance abuse treatment providers. The Health Care Authority must implement these services in partnership with or through the regional accountable communities of health or the University of Washington behavioral health institute.

The Health Care Authority worked with the Director of the Behavioral Health Institute and the Chief Executives of the Accountable Communities of Health to inquire of their interests and capacity to implement the programs. Both expressed interest, and both indicated that Accountable Communities of Health were uniquely positioned to maximize the potential benefits. Based on this information, HCA implemented a Letter of Interest process to identify interested Accountable Communities of Health. The Executives worked collaboratively to identify four entities to submit letters of interest. All four letters of interest were approved.

ESSHB also broadens the definition of AAC to include students and prioritizes a portion of nonfederal funds in Health Professional Loan Repayment program for demographically underrepresented students.

Overview

Workforce pilot programs

The Health Care Authority executed contracts with Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) to deploy services and resources authorized under ESSHB

1504. The intent of the three pilot programs is to provide incentive pay for individuals serving as clinical supervisors within community behavioral health agencies, state hospitals, and other facilities operated by the department of Social and Health Services. The desired outcomes of the pilot programs is to increase internships and entry level opportunities for new clinicians through recruitment and retention activities. Pilot sites must include providers in Eastern and Western Washington. One site must specialize in services for Medicaid enrolled children and youth. Of the two remaining sites, one must offer substance use disorder treatment services.

Training support grant program

The Training Support Grants Program must establish a flexible grant program for behavioral health agencies serving children. This funding can be used for training with a focus on Evidenced Based Programs (EBPs), continuing education, and quality monitoring infrastructure.

Next steps

The Health Care Authority is in process of executing contracts with four Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) to develop a process to disperse these funds to the appropriate communities and organizations.

Funding

Workforce pilot program

SFY 2022 – GFS \$440,000

SFY 2023 - \$440,000

Training support grant program

SFY 2022 – GFS \$60,000

SFY 2023 – GFS \$60,000

Questions?

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