

By: Representatives Mims, Faulkner, Paden,
Stamps, Karriem

To: Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 769

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COVID-19 MISSISSIPPI LOCAL PROVIDER
 2 INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE
 3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM AND ANY GRANT
 4 AWARDED UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL BE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
 5 STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INCREASING
 6 ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDERS TO HELP COMMUNITIES
 7 ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN OPTIMAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING TRANSITIONAL
 8 ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDERS; TO SPECIFY THE INFORMATION THAT
 9 APPLICANTS FOR GRANTS MUST SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT; TO PROVIDE
 10 THAT APPLICANTS ARE LIMITED TO ONE APPLICATION PER BUSINESS ENTITY
 11 AND SUBSIDIARIES OF THE ENTITY ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT SEPARATE
 12 APPLICATIONS; TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF A GRANT THAT MAY BE
 13 AWARDED TO AN APPLICANT; TO PROVIDE THAT THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
 14 FUNDED BY APPROPRIATION OF THE LEGISLATURE FROM THE CORONAVIRUS
 15 STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

17 **SECTION 1.** (1) As used in this section, the following terms
 18 shall be defined as provided in this subsection:

19 (a) "Local health care provider" or "provider" means a
 20 facility that is licensed, certified or otherwise authorized or
 21 permitted by law to provide health care in the ordinary course of
 22 business in the State of Mississippi, including, but not limited
 23 to, skilled nursing facilities, direct primary care clinics,
 24 provider owned clinics, rural health clinics, academic medical



25 centers, community health centers and/or independent physician
26 practices.

27 (b) "Transitional assistance" means any assistance
28 related to changing a provider's current health care delivery
29 model to a model more appropriate for the community that the
30 provider serves, including, but not limited to:

31 (i) Conducting a market study of health care
32 services needed and provided in the community;

33 (ii) Acquiring and implementing new technological
34 tools and infrastructure, including, but not limited to,
35 telemedicine delivery methods, development of health information
36 exchange platforms to electronically share medical records,
37 electronic health record optimization, purchasing connected
38 devices, upgrading digital devices, improving broadband
39 connectivity, public health reporting, and implementing online or
40 mobile patient appointment management applications; and

41 (iii) Supporting the implementation of population
42 health management.

43 (2) There is established the COVID-19 Mississippi Local
44 Provider Innovation Grant Program to be administered by the State
45 Department of Health. The program and any grant awarded under the
46 program shall be for the purpose of strengthening and improving
47 the health care system and increasing access to health care
48 services providers to help communities achieve and maintain
49 optimal health by providing transitional assistance to providers.



50 The department may award an innovation grant to a local health
51 care provider that applies in accordance with this section.

52 (3) Eligible local health care providers shall provide the
53 following information to the department in their application for a
54 grant:

55 (a) A description of the location or locations for
56 which the grant monies will be expended, including the name and
57 locations of where the provider administers health care services;

58 (b) A statement of the amount of grant monies
59 requested;

60 (c) A description of the needs of the provider, the
61 transitional assistance for which the grant monies will be
62 expended and how such transitional assistance will meet the stated
63 needs;

64 (d) Evidence that the provider has played an active
65 role in the community to combat the spread of COVID-19, including,
66 but not limited to, testing, vaccination and antibody treatment;
67 and

68 (e) Any other information that the department deems
69 necessary to administer this section.

70 (4) Applicants are limited to one (1) application per
71 business entity as determined by the applicant's business filing
72 status with the Secretary of State. Subsidiaries of the entity
73 are not eligible to submit separate applications. Health systems



74 that affiliate, own or control multiple clinics are only eligible
75 to submit to one (1) application under the parent entity.
76 The department shall determine the amount of the grant to be
77 awarded to each applicant based on the factors detailed in the
78 application, with the maximum amount of a grant that may be
79 awarded to an applicant being Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars
80 (\$250,000.00).

81 (5) The COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant
82 Program created under this section shall be funded by
83 appropriation of the Legislature from the Coronavirus State Fiscal
84 Recovery Fund, not to exceed a total of Fifty-five Million Dollars
85 (\$55,000,000.00) for the program.

86 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
87 and after July 1, 2022.

