

By: Representatives Mims, Faulkner, McGee

To: Public Health and Human Services

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 518

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 41-139-1, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,  
2 TO REVISE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE COVID-19 MISSISSIPPI LOCAL  
3 PROVIDER INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM; TO PROVIDE THAT APPLICANTS FOR  
4 GRANTS THAT WERE APPROVED AND FUNDED IN THE FIRST ROUND OF GRANTS  
5 AWARDED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2023 ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE  
6 SECOND ROUND OF GRANTS AWARDED DURING FISCAL YEAR 2024; TO PROVIDE  
7 THAT GRANTS MAY BE USED FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES THAT WERE  
8 INCURRED BY PROVIDERS DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON MARCH 3,  
9 2021, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024; TO DELETE THE REQUIREMENT THAT  
10 THE PROGRAM BE FUNDED FROM THE CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY  
11 FUND; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MAY EXPEND A  
12 PORTION OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM FOR THE  
13 EXPENSES OF ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

15 **SECTION 1.** Section 41-139-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
16 amended as follows:

17 41-139-1. (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. The  
76 department shall determine the amount of the grant to be awarded  
77 to each applicant based on the factors detailed in the  
78 application \* \* \*. Applicants for grants that were approved and  
79 funded in the first round of grants awarded during fiscal year  
80 2023 are eligible to apply for the second round of grants awarded  
81 during fiscal year 2024. The maximum amount of \* \* \* any one (1)  
82 grant that may be awarded to an applicant \* \* \* is Two Hundred  
83 Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00). Grants may be used for  
84 reimbursement of expenses of transitional assistance meeting  
85 federal and state requirements that were incurred by providers  
86 during the period beginning on March 3, 2021, through December 31,  
87 2024.

88 (5) \* \* \* The department may expend up to one and one-half  
89 percent (1-1/2%) of the amount appropriated for the program for  
90 the expenses of administering the program, or the specific amount  
91 authorized for administrative expenses in the appropriation bill  
92 if that amount is higher.

93 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
94 and after July 1, 2023.

