

By: Representatives Mims, Scoggin, Faulkner,
McGee

To: Public Health and Human
Services

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 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL GRANTS THAT MAY BE RECEIVED BY AN
 8 APPLICANT IS \$250,000.00; TO PROVIDE THAT GRANTS MAY BE USED FOR
 9 REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES OF THAT WERE INCURRED BY PROVIDERS
 10 DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON MARCH 3, 2021, THROUGH DECEMBER 31,
 11 2024; 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), and the total amount of all
84 grants that may be received by an applicant is Two Hundred Fifty
85 Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00). Grants may be used for
86 reimbursement of expenses of transitional assistance meeting
87 federal and state requirements that were incurred by providers
88 during the period beginning on March 3, 2021, through December 31,
89 2024.

90 (5) The COVID-19 Mississippi Local Provider Innovation Grant
91 Program created under this section shall be funded by
92 appropriation of the Legislature from the Coronavirus State Fiscal
93 Recovery Fund. The department may expend up to one and one-half
94 percent (1-1/2%) of the amount appropriated for the program for
95 the expenses of administering the program, or the specific amount
96 authorized for administrative expenses in the appropriation bill
97 if that amount is higher.



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

