

## SUBCHAPTER J. PRIMARY CARE INNOVATION PROGRAM

### 19 TAC §§6.200 - 6.208

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Coordinating Board) proposes new §§6.200 - 6.208, relating to Health Education, Training, and Research Funds, in new Subchapter J, concerning the Primary Care Innovation Program. The intent of these new sections is to specify the Board's criteria and process for awarding grants under the program to incentivize medical schools that administer innovative programs designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in Texas. A grant under this subchapter may be spent only on a program intended to increase the number of primary care physicians in the state. In addition, Senate Bill 215, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, called for the Board to engage institutions of higher education in a negotiated rulemaking process as described in Chapter 2008, Government Code in the development of such rules. The new Primary Care Innovation Program rules were reviewed and approved by the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee on the Primary Care Innovation Program on April 9, 2014.

Dr. Rex Peebles, Assistant Commissioner for Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research, has determined that for the first five years there will be no fiscal implications for state or local governments as a result of the proposed new sections.

Dr. Peebles has also determined that for the first five years the new sections are in effect, the program will incentivize medical schools to administer innovative programs to increase the number of primary care physicians in the state. There are no anticipated economic costs to persons who are required to comply with the sections as proposed. There is no impact on local employment.

Comments on the proposed new rules may be submitted by mail to Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, P.O. Box 12788, Austin, Texas 78711 or via email at WAARcomments@thehb.state.tx.us. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following publication of the proposal in the *Texas Register*.

The new rules are proposed under the Texas Education Code, Chapter 58A, §58A.053, which provides the Coordinating Board with the authority to adopt rules to administer the program.

The new rules affect the implementation of Texas Education Code, Chapter 58.

#### §6.200.Purpose.

The purpose of this subchapter is to implement rules to establish the Primary Care Innovation Program, under which the Board awards grant payments to incentivize medical schools that administer innovative programs designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in Texas. A grant under this subchapter may be spent only on a program intended to increase the number of primary care physicians in the state.

#### §6.201.Authority.

The authority for this subchapter is found in Texas Education Code, Chapter 58A, Subchapter C, §§58A.051 - 58A.054.

#### §6.202.Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Administer--Includes but is not limited to the proposal, development, and implementation of a program, within the parameters of the Request for Applications.

(2) Board or THECB--The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) Medical School--A public or independent medical institution that awards the doctor of medicine (M.D.) or doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree, as defined in Texas Education Code, §61.003(5) and §61.501(1).

(4) Primary Care--The medical specialties including family practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology, as defined in Texas Education Code, §58.008.

(5) Primary Care Innovation Program--A grant program under which the Board awards grant payments to incentivize medical schools that administer innovative programs designed to increase the number of primary care physicians in this state.

(6) Request for Applications (RFA)--A type of solicitation notice in which the THECB announces available grant funding, sets forth the guidelines governing the program, provides evaluation criteria for submitted applications, and provides instructions for eligible entities to submit applications for such funding. The guidelines governing the program may include a Letter of Intent, eligibility requirements, performance expectations, budget guidelines, reporting requirements, and other standards of accountability for this program.

#### §6.203.Eligibility.

The following are eligible to apply for a grant under the program:

(1) a Medical School; or

(2) a partnership among Medical Schools.

#### §6.204.Grant Application Procedures.

To qualify for funding consideration, each eligible entity must submit an application to Board staff. Each application must:

(1) Be submitted electronically in a format specified in the RFA;

(2) Adhere to the grant program requirements and the funding priorities contained in the RFA; and

(3) Be submitted with proper authorization on or before the date and time specified by the Board in the RFA.

#### §6.205.Award Amounts.

The maximum amount of funding available to the program is dependent on the legislative appropriation for each biennium. Maximum and minimum award levels and maximum number of awards will be specified in the RFA.

#### §6.206.Award Criteria and Selection for Funding.

(a) Applicants shall be selected for funding on a competitive basis.

(b) An application must meet the requirements of the RFA and be submitted with proper authorization on or before the day and time specified by the RFA to qualify for further consideration.

(c) The selection process includes an application review and staff recommendation for funding. Board staff shall review applications to determine if they adhere to the grant program requirements and the funding priorities contained in the RFA.

(d) Each application shall:

(1) Target current or prospective medical students;

(2) Provide a detailed explanation of the applicant's primary care innovation program, including a timeline for development and implementation, description of student population identified to participate in the program, description of any other population identified to participate in the program, detailed description of essential budget, and detailed information related to administration and support for the program;

(3) Document how the innovation program would achieve the goals of increasing the number of Texas medical students who pursue a career in Primary Care; and

(4) Incorporate a provision for tracking the career paths of medical student participants in the innovation program, for the four-year period following graduation, including the specialty/subspecialty practiced by the graduates and whether the graduate practiced in the state and, if so, the practice location(s), in each of the four years.

(e) Priority for selection will be given, in the order stated below, to applicants that demonstrate an innovative approach to the promotion of primary care specialties, and that include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:

(1) Evidence supporting conceptual foundation of proposed program;

(2) Evidence of institutional commitment to increase the primary care workforce;

(3) Evidence of institutional support of proposal, such as faculty and staff time, access to institutional resources, and/or funds;

(4) Collaboration across medical schools and/or healthcare delivery organizations; and

(5) Description of a plan for sustainability of the proposed program.

#### §6.207. General Information.

(a) Cancellation or Suspension of Grant Solicitations. The Board has the right to reject all applications and cancel a grant solicitation at any point.

(b) Notice of Grant Award (NOGA). Before release of funds, the successful applicants must sign a NOGA issued by Board staff.

#### §6.208. Reporting.

Each funded applicant shall provide reports to the THECB as detailed in the RFA. The reports will include, but may not be limited to, the following:

(1) Number of students participating in and completing the program;

(2) A detailed summary of budget expenditures as allowed; and

(3) Information on the career paths of medical student participants in the innovation program, for the four-year period following graduation, including the specialty/subspecialty practiced by the graduates and whether the graduate practiced in the state and, if so, the practice location(s), in each of the four years.

The agency certifies that legal counsel has reviewed the proposal and found it to be within the state agency's legal authority to adopt.

Filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on April 14, 2014.

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Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Proposed date of adoption: July 24, 2014

For further information, please call: (512) 427-6114