HOUSE BILL

58TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2027

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; ENACTING THE YOUTH HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM ACT; PROVIDING GRANTS FOR YOUTH HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS; PRESCRIBING DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act".

SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act:

A. "department" means the department of health;

B. "intern" means a person who receives on-the-job training directly supervised by an experienced professional;

C. "pre-apprenticeship" means a program designed to

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prepare individuals to enter and succeed in a registered apprenticeship that combines industry-driven curriculum aligned with employer skills needs and registered apprenticeship standards, supervised hands-on learning in real or simulated environments and opportunities to attain industry-recognized credentials;

D. "registered apprenticeship" means a paid employment and training program registered in accordance with federal or state apprenticeship standards that combines supervised on-the-job learning with related technical instruction, provides progressive wage increases as skills are acquired and leads to a nationally recognized apprenticeship completion credential;

E. "youth" means a person or persons between the age of fourteen and twenty-four;

F. "youth health workforce development program" means a program approved by the department that administers internships, pre-apprenticeships or registered apprenticeships to prepare youth to enter the state's health workforce; and

G. "youth peer support specialist" means a youth trained to provide behavioral health support and crisis intervention to peers.

SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS--FUND.--

A. The "youth health workforce development grant

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program" is created in the department to award grants to youth health workforce development programs approved by the department in accordance with the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act.

B. To receive a grant, a youth health workforce development program shall apply to the department in accordance with rules promulgated by the department. Grant amounts shall be determined based on the department's review of each applicant's grant application.

C. The department may award youth health workforce development grants to:

(1) equip health care clinics, schools and community organizations to administer youth health workforce development programs;

(2) create student groups focused on learning core health care skills to transition into higher education, apprenticeships or jobs;

(3) assist schools in creating customized career pathways with local employers;

(4) offer individualized career coaching, job matching, workplace mentorship and transition planning;

(5) fund existing youth health workforce development programs;

(6) increase the number of pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship positions within existing youth

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health workforce development programs; and

(7) develop new youth health workforce development programs.

D. The department may prioritize grant awards to youth health workforce development programs that serve:

(1) communities with shortages of health care workers;

(2) Indian nations, tribes or pueblos;

(3) rural or frontier areas within the state;

(4) English language learners;

(5) persons experiencing housing instability; and

(6) youth involved in the foster care or juvenile justice system.

SECTION 4. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COUNCIL.--The department shall create a "youth health and well-being council". The youth health and well-being council:

A. consists of youth representing:

(1) local communities;

(2) local advocacy groups;

(3) rural communities; and

(4) tribal communities; and

B. shall provide recommendations to the department regarding youth health workforce development grant program applications.

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SECTION 5. [NEW MATERIAL] DEPARTMENT DUTIES--RECIPIENT YOUTH HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DUTIES.--

A. The department shall:

(1) by January 1, 2028, in consultation with the youth health and well-being council, promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act;

(2) review youth health workforce development grant program applications in consultation with the youth health and well-being council;

(3) award grants to youth health workforce development programs that meet criteria established by rules promulgated pursuant to the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act;

(4) create an evaluation tool to assess youth health workforce development program performance; and

(5) by November 1, 2028 and on or before November 1 of each year thereafter, provide a report to the governor, the legislative health and human services committee, the legislative finance committee, the legislative education study committee and the children's cabinet that includes:

(a) the number of youth health workforce development grants awarded;

(b) the youth health workforce development programs that received grants;

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(c) the cost per youth of participating in youth health workforce development programs; and

(d) policy and budget recommendations.

B. A youth health workforce development program that receives grant money pursuant to the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act shall:

(1) provide assistance to program participants to cover transportation, training and placement costs;

(2) connect program participants with basic needs resources;

(3) pair youth with mentors that offer career guidance, personal advocacy and occupational skills training;

(4) pair youth with youth peer support specialists;

(5) collaborate with existing mentors to establish quality and training standards;

(6) compensate interns, registered apprentices or pre-apprentices fairly;

(7) provide translation and interpretation services as necessary; and

(8) provide quarterly reports to the department that include:

(a) the number of youth interns or employees participating in the youth health workforce development grant program;

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(b) the duration of each pre-apprenticeship or registered apprenticeship;

(c) the job title of each person supervising youth interns or employees;

(d) services that the youth health workforce development program provides to the public; and

(e) a progress report of each youth intern or employee.

SECTION 6. [NEW MATERIAL] YOUTH HEALTH SUMMIT.--Beginning July 1, 2029 and annually thereafter, the department shall organize an annual statewide youth health and well-being summit to review progress of the youth health workforce development grant program, provide an opportunity for programs and the community to share experiences related to health workforce and youth well-being, identify priorities and inform youth health program practice and policy recommendations.

SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.--Five million dollars ($5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the department of health for expenditure in fiscal year 2028 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the provisions of the Youth Health Workforce Development Grant Program Act. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

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