

By: Howard

H.B. No. 5536

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a child protective services prevention grant program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B-1, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.1691, Sec.264.1692, Sec. 264.1693, Sec. 264.1694, and Sec. 264.1695 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.1691. CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM. In this section, (a) "community-based, nonprofit organization" means a community-driven nonprofit organization that is headquartered in Texas that provides child-centered preservation services; and

(b) "Grant program" means the child protective services prevention grant program established under this subchapter.

Sec. 264.1692. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.  
(a) The commission shall establish and administer a child protective services prevention grant program through which the commission awards grants to one or more eligible community-based, nonprofit organizations for preventing, or reducing, incidences of

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child abuse and neglect and promoting a child's well-being by:

(1) identifying children who are most at risk for abuse and neglect before they enter child protective services, families stand the best chance at staying together, and children have the best odds for a healthy, productive, and fulfilling life.

(b) The commission shall provide grants to community-based, nonprofit organizations to focused on an areas of need, not greater than one-square mile, in a county that is ranked among the five counties with the highest per capita rates of child abuse and neglect.

Sec. 264.1693. APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

(a) A community-based, nonprofit organization may apply to the commission to receive money under the grant program if the organization:

(1) is headquartered in Texas;

(2) provides a child-centered strategy that is available to each child in the identified region;

(3) demonstrates a current and valid data-sharing agreement with a state agency;

(4) demonstrates municipal and/or county support for program and agreement to coordinate with grantee to administer program;

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(5) possess current and valid authorization to provide services to children in foster care;

(6) use generally accepted statistical methods to demonstrate services provide a positive impact on the well-being of children in program, and successfully prevent incidences of abuse and neglect;

(7) uses a generally accepted psychological assessment before providing services and upon program completion to demonstrate a positive impact on the well-being and mental health, of children served; and

(8) use a generally accepted psychological assessment before providing services and upon program completion to demonstrate a positive impact on the well-being and mental health, of children served; and

(9) submit an annual report to HHSC providing information on program participant outcomes, and recommendations for best-practice prevention strategies for consideration in other regions in the state.

(b) The commission may award grants under the grant program to eligible applicants.

Sec. 264.1694. FUNDING. (a) The commission shall award grants under the program in accordance with this chapter from money

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appropriated for the purposes of the program.

(b) Out of money appropriated to the commission that is available for the purpose, the commission shall allocate a minimum of \$10 million each fiscal biennium to award grants under this subchapter.

(1)

Sec. 264.1695. RULES. The executive commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this chapter.

SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2026, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement Chapter \_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.