

85th Regular Legislative Session

Key Legislation Related to Community Collaboratives - Behavioral Healthcare

HB 13	Price/Schwertner – Relating to the creation of a matching grant program to support community mental health programs for individuals experiencing mental illness	<p>Creates a matching grant program for community mental health programs providing services and treatment to individuals experiencing mental illness; both private nonprofit and governmental entities are eligible to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HHSC must develop criteria for evaluating grant applications.• Requires matching with non-state funds depending on the county population:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Counties with a population of less than 250,000 are required to match 50% of the grant amount;2. Counties with a population greater than 250,000 are required to match 100% of the grant amount.• Fifty percent of the funding appropriated for this grant program is reserved for programs in counties with less than a population of 250,000.• Applicants must notify the LMHA that covers the applicants proposed service area for input on the project.• HHSC must consider the LMHA's written input before deciding on grant awards. A letter of support from each LMHA with a local service area affected by the application must be submitted with the grant proposal.
SB 292	Huffman/Price - Relating to the creation of a grant program to reduce recidivism, arrest, and incarceration of individuals with mental illness	<p>Creates a grant program designed to reduce returns to prison by people with mental health conditions; reduce arrests and incarceration for people living with mental illness; and to reduce wait time for forensic commitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The grant program must provide grants to county-based community collaboratives that include the county, the LMHA, and each hospital district, if any, located in the county; the collaboratives may include other local entities.• The community collaborative must obtain grant matching funding from non-state sources at a percentage dependent on the population of the country, with HHSC specifically allocating 20% of the total funding awarded to counties with a population less than 250,000.• Acceptable uses for the grant money and matching funds include:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continuation, establishment, or expansion of a mental health jail diversion program2. Establishment of alternatives to competency restoration in a state hospital, including outpatient competency restoration, inpatient competency restoration in a setting other than a state hospital, or jail-based competency restoration• Provision of assertive community treatment or forensic assertive community treatment with an outreach component<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provision of intensive mental health or substance use treatment2. Provision of continuity of care services for an individual being released from a state hospital3. Establishment of interdisciplinary rapid response teams to reduce law enforcement's involvement with mental health emergencies4. Provision of local community hospital, crisis, respite, or residential beds