
Health Care & Wellness Committee

SSB 5360

Brief Description: Establishing a community health care collaborative grant program.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Health & Long-Term Care (originally sponsored by Senators Keiser, Brandland, Franklin, Murray, Brown, Ranker, Fraser, Parlette and Kohl-Welles).

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishes a community health care collaborative grant program operated by the Health Care Authority. |
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Hearing Date: 3/24/09

Staff: Dave Knutson (786-7146)

Background:

The Community Health Care Collaborative (CHCC) Grant Program provides support for community-based organizations to develop local health care delivery models that could be duplicated throughout the state. The program seeks to increase access to health care and improve the quality of care, especially to uninsured and underinsured persons. The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) has provided competitive grant awards to eligible community-based organizations, in consultation with the Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner. The program became effective in July 2006 and is due to expire on June 30, 2009.

In an evaluation of the program issued in 2008, results showed that the CHCC had provided services to over 60,000 people who needed access to health care. It also provided for the coordination of volunteer medical services and an ability to leverage outside funding. The report recommended a continued state role of supporting and sustaining community-based health care collaboratives.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The CHCC Grant Program is established to further efforts of community-based coalitions to increase access to appropriate, affordable health care, especially for employed, low-income persons and children in school who are uninsured and underinsured. The HCA is authorized to award two-year grants with funds appropriated for this purpose. Eligibility criteria for receiving grants is described for applicants serving a defined geographic region. The grants will be awarded competitively based on each applicant's ability to show measurable improvement in health care access and quality, collaboration with key community partners, success in leveraging funds from other sources, sustainability, and innovative approaches to serving their geographic region.

On July 1 of each even-numbered fiscal year, the HCA must provide the Governor and the Legislature with an evaluation of the program, including its impact, results of performance measures, and recommendations.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested 3/19/09.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.