

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 3 Closing the Gap Grant Program

SPONSOR(S): Powell

TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 94

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Health Quality Subcommittee		Castagna	O'Callaghan
2) Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee			
3) Health & Human Services Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The Department of Health's Office of Minority Health (Office) administers multiple health promotion programs including the "Closing the Gap" (CTG) grant program. The CTG grant program was created by the Legislature in 2000 to improve health outcomes and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Florida by providing grants to increase community-based health and disease prevention activities.

Grants are awarded for one year through a proposal process, and may be renewed annually subject to the availability of funds and the grantee's achievement of quality standards, objectives, and outcomes. The Office outlines required criteria for a grant proposal, including the selection of a priority area that will be addressed by the proposed project. The proposal must identify one of the following priority areas:

- Increasing adult and child immunization rates in certain racial and ethnic populations; or
- Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in:
 - Maternal and infant mortality rates;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to cancer;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to HIV/AIDS;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to cardiovascular disease;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to diabetes; or
 - Oral health care.

HB 3 allows the CTG grant program to also fund projects directed at decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to sickle cell disease.

The bill appears to have no fiscal impact on state or local governments.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Current Situation

Closing the Gap Program

The Department of Health's (DOH) Office of Minority Health (Office) is the coordinating office for consultative services in the areas of cultural and linguistic competency, partnership building, and program development and implementation to address the health needs of Florida's minority and underrepresented populations statewide. The Office administers multiple health promotion programs including the "Closing the Gap" (CTG) grant program.¹ In 2000, the Legislature created the CTG grant program to improve health outcomes and eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Florida by providing grants to increase community-based health and disease prevention activities.²

Grant Proposals

Grants are awarded for one year through a proposal process, and may be renewed annually subject to the availability of funds and the grantee's achievement of quality standards, objectives, and outcomes.³ Proposals for grants must identify:⁴

- The purpose and objectives of the proposed project, including the particular racial or ethnic disparity the project will address;
- One of the following priority areas:
 - Increasing adult and child immunization rates in certain racial and ethnic populations; or
 - Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in:
 - Maternal and infant mortality rates;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to cancer;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to HIV/AIDS;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to cardiovascular disease;
 - Morbidity and mortality rates relating to diabetes; or
 - Oral health care;
- The target population and its relevance;
- Methods for obtaining baseline health status data and assessment of community health needs;
- Mechanisms for mobilizing community resources and gaining local commitment;
- Development and implementation of health promotion and disease prevention interventions;
- Mechanisms and strategies for evaluating the project's objectives, procedures, and outcomes;
- A proposed work plan, including a timeline for implementing the project; and
- The likelihood that project activities will occur and continue in the absence of funding.

Grant Funding

Projects receiving grants are required to provide local matching funds of one dollar for every three dollars awarded, except for grants awarded to Front Porch Florida communities.⁵ In counties with

¹ Florida Dep't of Health, *Minority Health*, available at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/programs-and-services/minority-health/index.html> (last accessed February 5, 2015).

² Sections 381.7353 – 381.7356, F.S.

³ Section 381.7356(4), F.S.

⁴ Section 381.7355, F.S.

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populations greater than 50,000, up to 50 percent of the local matching funds may be in-kind in the form of free services or human resources. In counties with populations of 50,000 or less, local matching funds may be provided entirely through in-kind contributions.⁶

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the Legislature appropriated \$3.1 million in general revenue for minority health initiatives, including the CTG grant program. Seventeen grants have been awarded under the CTG, ranging from \$125,000 to a maximum of \$200,000. The appropriation also included specific funding of \$100,000 for a program in the Tampa Bay area to screen and educate high school athletes about sickle cell trait.⁷

Sickle Cell Disease

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders.⁸ Those with SCD have an abnormal type of hemoglobin⁹ that causes irregular shaped red blood cells that are fragile and die earlier than healthy cells.¹⁰ These irregular shaped “sickle” cells can slow or block blood flow and oxygen to parts of the body. People with SCD usually begin to show signs of the disease during the first 5 months of life. SCD is diagnosed with a blood test, most often during routine newborn screening tests.¹¹ Symptoms and complications of SCD are different for each person, can range from mild to severe, and can include:¹²

- Episodes of severe pain;
- Jaundice;
- Infections;
- Kidney problems;
- Leg sores and ulcers;
- Swollen limbs;
- Vision problems;
- Acute chest syndrome; and
- Stroke.

SCD is a genetic disorder that occurs when a child inherits the sickle cell gene from both parents. People who inherit one sickle cell gene and one normal gene have sickle cell trait (SCT). People with SCT usually do not have any of the symptoms associated with SCD but they can pass the trait on to their children.¹³

SCD and SCT occur in high frequency among people of African-American and Hispanic descent.¹⁴ SCD occurs in approximately 1 out of every 500 African American births and approximately 1 out of

⁵ The Front Porch Florida Initiative is administered by the Office of Urban Opportunity within the Department of Economic Opportunity's Division of Community Development and encourages revitalization and redevelopment projects in urban communities. Twenty percent of CTG grant program funds go towards this program. Section 20.60(5)(b)2.g., F.S.

⁶ Section 381.7356(2)(b), F.S.

⁷ Chapter 2014-51, Laws of Florida, line-item 443 and Closing the Gap 2014-2015 Awards Report from House Health Care Appropriations (on file with committee staff).

⁸ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Facts About Sickle Cell Disease*, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/facts.html> (last visited February 2, 2015).

⁹ Hemoglobin is a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen. National Institutes of Health, Medline Plus, *Hemoglobin*, available at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/003645.htm> (last visited February 6, 2015).

¹⁰ University of Maryland Medical Center, *Sickle Cell Disease*, available at <http://umm.edu/health/medical/reports/articles/sickle-cell-disease> (last visited February 6, 2015).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, *Sickle Cell Trait and Athletics*, available at <http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/index.cfm?page=sickle-cell-trait-athletics> (last visited February 5, 2015).

every 36,000 Hispanic American births.¹⁵ Approximately 70,000 to 100,000 persons in the United States have SCD and 3 million have SCT.¹⁶

Treatment

Vaccines are highly recommended for people with SCD.¹⁷ There is no cure for SCD other than experimental transplant procedures. People with SCD require ongoing treatments that vary from person to person and aim to relieve pain, prevent infections, and manage complications.¹⁸ Management of SCD complications can be very costly requiring surgical procedures, recurring hospital admissions, medications, and diagnostic tests.¹⁹

The University of Florida found that total annual health care costs for SCD-related treatments ranged from \$10,000 for children aged 9 years old and under up to \$34,000 in adults aged 30 to 39. For an average patient reaching the age of 45, lifetime health care costs totaled approximately \$900,000. Seventy percent of patients in the University of Florida's study were of African American decent.²⁰

Effect of Proposed Changes

HB 3 allows the CTG grant program to fund projects directed at decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and mortality rates relating to sickle cell disease.

The bill establishes an effective date of July 1, 2015.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 381.7355, F.S., relating to project requirements; review criteria.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2015.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

¹⁵ National Institutes of Health, *Who Is at Risk for Sickle Cell Anemia*, available at <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/sca/atrisk> (last visited February 6, 2015).

¹⁶ Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, *Sickle Cell Disease Global*, available at <http://www.sicklecelldisease.org/index.cfm?page=scd-global> (last visited February 5, 2015).

¹⁷ University of Florida Health, *Sickle Cell Anemia*, available at <https://ufhealth.org/sickle-cell-anemia> (last visited February 6, 2015).

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ Kauf, T., Coates, T., Huazhi, L., Mody-Patel, N., & Abrahman, H. (2009). The Cost of Health Care for Children and Adults with Sickle Cell Disease. *American Journal of Hematology*, 84(6), 323-327. available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajh.21408/abstract> (last visited February 6, 2015).

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal governments.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

Not applicable.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES