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H.140

Introduced by Representatives Holcombe of Norwich and Masland of Thetford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; municipalities; community care coordinator; community
nurse

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish a
grant program to fund the provision of services by community nurses and
community care coordinators in collaboration with municipalities.

An act relating to the provision of grants for community nurses and
community care coordinators working in collaboration with municipalities

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT

It is the intent of the General Assembly to improve health outcomes and to
prevent avoidable care and over utilization of institutional care, particularly
among heavy utilizers by expanding access in rural communities to community
nurses and community care coordinators, as recommended in the report
completed by the Green Mountain Care Board’s consultant in accordance with
2022 Acts and Resolves No. 167.

1 Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 222 is amended to read:

2 Chapter 222. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

3 § 9490. COMMUNITY NURSE AND COMMUNITY CARE

4 COORDINATOR GRANT PROGRAM

5 (a) Grant program established. The Department of Health shall administer
6 a grant program for the purpose of establishing community nurse or
7 community care coordinator programs in Vermont communities. The
8 Commissioner shall award grants of up to \$10,000.00 per municipality to fund
9 a community nurse or community care coordinator program in the
10 municipality, provided the municipal applicant meets the criteria set forth in
11 this section and rule. As used in this section, “municipality” means a city,
12 town, or incorporated village in the State.

13 (b) Grant eligibility.

14 (1) General criteria. A municipality may submit a grant application to
15 the Department each year during the period specified by the Department in
16 rule. Successful grant applicants shall:

17 (A) demonstrate that the municipality has a separate financial
18 account that shall be used solely for administering funds for the municipality’s
19 community nurse or community care coordinator program, or alternatively,
20 demonstrate that a qualifying nonprofit organization is available to receive and

1 administer the grant funding to pay for community nurse or community care
2 coordinator services;

3 (B) demonstrate that the municipality's community nurse or
4 community care coordinator program structure has fiscal and organizational
5 transparency;

6 (C) provide documentation that the legislative body of the
7 municipality has approved the community nurse or community care
8 coordinator program;

9 (D) describe the proposed collaboration between the community
10 nurse or community care coordinator and the municipality, including the
11 community nurse or community coordinator's anticipated duties, work hours,
12 and any specialized training necessary to provide services;

13 (E) describe the municipality's plan for ongoing funding for the
14 community nurse or community care coordinator program once the
15 municipality is no longer eligible for grants under this section; and

16 (F) if applicable, describe any formal relationship between the
17 municipality and existing health care providers, including a federally qualified
18 health center.

19 (2) Joint applications. Two or more municipalities may submit a joint
20 application to support and extend shared services; however, each municipality
21 shall independently address the criteria in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

1 (3) Limitations.

2 (A) Municipalities that currently have a community nurse or
3 community care coordinator may apply for grant funding to expand service;
4 however, municipal applicants seeking to establish new community nurse or
5 community care coordinator programs shall be given priority for grant funding.

6 (B) Applications to fund multiple community nurse or community
7 care coordinator positions within a municipality shall be considered to the
8 extent that the proposal reflects the municipality's population and community
9 nurse service needs.

10 (C) A municipality shall be eligible for not more than five annual
11 grants.

12 (c) Awards granted. Awards granted by the Commissioner under this
13 section shall be provided directly to the applying municipality.

14 (d) Rulemaking. Pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 25, the Commissioner shall
15 adopt rules necessary to administer the grant program established in this
16 section. The rules shall address:

17 (1) timelines for application and reapplication;

18 (2) application criteria; and

19 (3) procedures for review of grant expenditures and program evaluation.

1 (e) Guidance and resources. The Department shall make guidance and
2 resources for community nurses and community care coordinators available
3 through its local health offices.

4 Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION

5 (a) Fiscal year 2026. In fiscal year 2026, \$200,000.00 is appropriated to
6 the Department of Health from the General Fund for the purpose of funding
7 grants pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9490 (community nurse and community care
8 coordinator grant program).

9 (b) Fiscal year 2027 and later. It is the intent of the General Assembly that
10 \$200,000.00 be appropriated annually to the Department of Health from the
11 General Fund to fund the community nurse grant program established in
12 18 V.S.A. § 9490 (community nurse and community care coordinator grant
13 program).

14 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.