

CHAPTER 2024-227

Senate Bill No. 2518

An act relating to health and human services; amending ss. 381.4019 and 381.402, F.S.; providing for the deposit and use of funds from the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program and the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education Program, respectively, which are returned by a financial institution to the Department of Health; authorizing the department to submit budget amendments for a specified purpose; amending s. 420.622, F.S.; revising the cap on the grant award levels for continuum of care lead agencies designated by the State Office on Homelessness; amending s. 430.204, F.S.; authorizing area agencies on aging to carry forward a specified percentage of documented unexpended state funds, subject to certain conditions; providing that implementation of specified provisions of law regarding Florida Kidcare program eligibility are contingent upon certain federal approval; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Present subsection (9) of section 381.4019, Florida Statutes, as amended by SB 7016, 2024 Regular Session, is redesignated as subsection (10), and a new subsection (9) is added to that section, to read:

381.4019 Dental Student Loan Repayment Program.—The Dental Student Loan Repayment Program is established to support the state Medicaid program and promote access to dental care by supporting qualified dentists and dental hygienists who treat medically underserved populations in dental health professional shortage areas or medically underserved areas.

(9) Any payments made under this section and subsequently returned by a financial institution to the department may be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to be used for the same purpose. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, the department may submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, to increase budget authority to make payments under this section.

Section 2. Present subsection (8) of section 1009.65, Florida Statutes, as transferred, renumbered as section 381.402, Florida Statutes, and amended by SB 7016, 2024 Regular Session, is redesignated as subsection (9), and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

381.402 Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education Program.—

(8) Any payments made under this section and subsequently returned by a financial institution to the Department of Health may be deposited into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund to be used for the same purpose. Notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, the department may submit

budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of s. 216.177, to increase budget authority to make payments under this section.

Section 3. Subsection (4) and paragraph (b) of subsection (5) of section 420.622, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

420.622 State Office on Homelessness; Council on Homelessness.—

(4) The State Office on Homelessness shall accept and administer moneys appropriated to it to provide annual challenge grants to lead agencies of continuums of care designated by the State Office on Homelessness under s. 420.6225. The department shall establish varying levels of grant awards up to \$1.2 million ~~\$750,000~~ per continuum of care lead agency. The department, in consultation with the Council on Homelessness, shall specify a grant award level in the notice of the solicitation of grant applications.

(a) To qualify for the grant, a continuum of care lead agency must develop and implement a local continuum of care plan for its designated catchment area. The services and housing funded through the grant must be implemented through the continuum of care's coordinated entry system as provided in s. 420.6225(5)(b) and must be designed to assess and refer persons seeking assistance to the appropriate housing intervention and service provider. The continuum of care lead agency shall also document the commitment of local government or private organizations to provide matching funds or in-kind support in an amount equal to 25 percent of the grant requested. Expenditures of leveraged funds or resources, including third-party cash or in-kind contributions, are authorized only for eligible activities carried out in connection with a project in which such funds or resources have not been used as leverage or match for any other project or program. The expenditures must be certified through a written commitment.

(b) Preference must be given to those continuum of care lead agencies that have demonstrated the ability of their continuum of care to help households move out of homelessness.

(c) The grant may be used to fund any of the housing, program, or service needs included in the local continuum of care plan. The continuum of care lead agency may allocate the grant to programs, services, or housing providers that implement the local continuum of care plan. The continuum of care lead agency may provide subgrants to a local agency to implement programs or services or provide housing identified for funding in the continuum of care lead agency's application to the department. A continuum of care lead agency may spend a maximum of 10 percent of its funding on administrative costs.

(d) The continuum of care lead agency shall submit a final report to the department documenting the outcomes achieved by the grant-funded

programs in enabling persons who are homeless to return to permanent housing, thereby ending such person's episode of homelessness.

(5) The State Office on Homelessness may administer moneys given to it to provide homeless housing assistance grants annually to continuum of care lead agencies recognized by the State Office on Homelessness to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate permanent housing units for homeless persons. These moneys shall consist of any sums that the state may appropriate, as well as money received from donations, gifts, bequests, or any other public or private source, which are intended to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate permanent housing units for homeless persons.

(b) Funding for any particular project may not exceed \$1.2 million \$750,000.

Section 4. Subsection (10) is added to section 430.204, Florida Statutes, to read:

430.204 Community-care-for-the-elderly core services; departmental powers and duties.—

(10) An area agency on aging may carry forward documented unexpended state funds from one fiscal year to the next. The cumulative amount carried forward may not exceed 10 percent of the area agency's planning and service area allocation for the community-care-for-the-elderly program. Funds that are carried forward from one fiscal year to the next are subject to all of the following conditions:

(a) The funds may not be used in any manner that would create increased recurring future obligations, and such funds may not be used for any type of program or service that is not currently authorized by existing contracts.

(b) Expenditures of the funds must be separately reported to the department.

(c) Any unexpended funds that remain at the end of the contract period must be returned to the department.

(d) The funds may be retained through any contract renewals or any new procurements as long as the same area agency on aging is retained by the department.

Section 5. Implementation of chapter 2023-277, Laws of Florida, by the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation is contingent upon federal approval through a Medicaid waiver or a state plan amendment. This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a law.

Section 6. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor June 12, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 12, 2024.