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Date: April 18, 2017 at 2:36:14 PM CDT

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Subject: FW: LEGISLATIVE ALERT: SB 292 in Senate 4.18.2017##

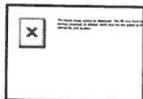
FYI. We agree this is a positive opportunity for Collin County.

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Building stronger communities, person by person.

From: Texas Council of Community Centers [<mailto:communications@txcouncil.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 2:29 PM

To: Randy Routon

Subject: LEGISLATIVE ALERT: SB 292 in Senate 4.18.2017



April 18, 2017

As you may be aware, [SB 292](#), by Senator Huffman, has been set on the Senate Intent Calendar today, Tuesday, April 18, 2017. This means the bill could be debated on the Senate floor at some point in the next few days.

As introduced, SB 292 directed use of a qualified nonprofit or private entity to serve as the administrator of the program. The Committee Substitute (CS) removed this provision and expanded the availability of formula grant funding from the 10 largest to the 20 largest counties in Texas.

The Texas Council supports SB 292.

Below is a brief summary to assist you in either contacting your legislators to discuss the bill or responding to inquiries from legislative offices.

CS SB 292 directs HHSC to make grants to county-based community collaboratives in the 20 most populous counties for the purpose of reducing recidivism, frequency of arrests, and incarceration among people with serious mental illness, as well as reducing wait times for forensic commitment to a state hospital. SB 292 includes the following provisions:

- ? Collaboratives must include a county, an LMHA, and any hospital district that operates in the county, and may include other entities designated by those members.
- ? Grantees will be required to supply local matching funds at least equal to the awarded grant.
- ? The collaborative formed in the state's most populous county will receive a grant equal to the lesser of:

- ? the amount appropriated that fiscal year for a mental health diversion pilot in the county, or
- ? the collaborative's available matching funds.

The other 19 most populous counties may receive grant awards calculated based on the estimated local population of individuals with serious mental illness in low-income households.

A competitive RFP process will be used to allow other counties' participation if sufficient funding is appropriated.

Grants may be used for:

- ? establishment, continuation, or expansion of a mental health jail diversion program,
- ? establishment of alternatives to state hospital-based competency restoration,
- ? ACT or forensic ACT with an outreach component,
- ? intensive mental health services and SUD treatment not readily available in the county,
- ? continuity of care services for an individual released from a state hospital,
- ? establishment of interdisciplinary rapid response teams to reduce law enforcement's involvement with mental health emergencies, and
- ? local community hospital, crisis, respite, or residential beds.

SB 292 will help communities increase local collaboration to address the challenges faced by individuals with mental illness and criminal justice involvement. It will also help address the inpatient bed shortage and will enable more people to receive treatment in the least restrictive environment appropriate for their needs.

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Lee Johnson at ljohnson@txcouncil.com.

This message has been distributed to members of the Texas Council Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officers/Executive Directors.



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