



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4923

Introduced 2/7/2024, by Rep. Mary E. Flowers

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.1015 new
305 ILCS 5/5-55 new

Amends the Medical Assistance Article of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Provides that subject to appropriation, the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health (the Departments), shall establish and administer a Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program that awards annual grants to medical-legal partnerships that provide legal services without charge to assist low-income individuals and families in resolving legal matters or other needs that have a negative impact on their health. Provides that to be eligible for a grant under the program, a medical-legal partnership must demonstrate its ability and experience in providing high quality patient-centered legal services aimed at addressing their patient's health-harming social and legal needs. Requires selected medical-legal partnerships to also comply with standards and guidelines established by the Departments. Requires the Departments to seek input from legal services organizations, community health advocacy organizations, hospitals, and other health care providers in establishing such standards and guidelines. Provides that grant amounts may be used to expand the capacity of existing medical-legal partnerships to provide patients with wraparound services related to housing instability or homelessness, landlord-tenant mediation, income support and rental assistance, food insecurity, family stability, respite care, immigration, and mental health or substance use treatment. Provides that grant amounts may also be awarded to establish medical-legal partnerships in underserved communities. Provides that Community health centers, private or public hospitals, nonprofit legal aid organizations, behavioral health facilities, and other specified entities may apply for program grants. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to adopt rules. Requires the Department to apply for all federal approvals and waivers necessary to cover wraparound services provided by medical-legal partnerships to medical assistance recipients who have chronic health conditions and health-harming social and legal needs. Creates the Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program Fund under the State Finance Act.

LRB103 36339 KTG 66438 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.1015 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.1015 new)

7 Sec. 5.1015. The Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program
8 Fund.

9 Section 10. The Illinois Public Aid Code is amended by
10 adding Section 5-55 as follows:

11 (305 ILCS 5/5-55 new)

12 Sec. 5-55. Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program.

13 (a) Definitions. As used in this Section:

14 "Departments" means the Departments of Healthcare and
15 Family Services, Human Services, and Public Health.

16 "Medical-legal partnership" means a program conducted or
17 established by a nonprofit entity through a collaboration
18 pursuant to a written agreement between one or more medical
19 service providers and one or more legal services programs,
20 including those based within a law school, to provide legal
21 services without charge to assist income-eligible individuals

1 and their families in resolving legal matters or other needs
2 that have an impact on the health of such individuals and
3 families. Written agreements may include a memorandum of
4 understanding or other agreement relating to the operations of
5 the partnership and encompassing the rights and
6 responsibilities of each party thereto. The medical service
7 provider or providers may provide referrals of its patients to
8 the legal services program or programs on matters that may
9 potentially impact the health, health care, or the health care
10 costs of a patient.

11 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department of Healthcare
12 and Family Services, in collaboration with the Department of
13 Human Services and the Department of Public Health, shall
14 establish and administer a Medical-Legal Partnership Grant
15 Program that awards annual grants to medical-legal
16 partnerships located within the State that provide legal
17 services without charge to assist low-income individuals and
18 families in resolving legal matters or other needs that have a
19 negative impact on their health. To be eligible for a grant
20 under the program, a medical-legal partnership must
21 demonstrate its ability and experience in providing high
22 quality patient-centered legal services aimed at addressing
23 their patient's health-harming social and legal needs.
24 Selected medical-legal partnerships must also comply with
25 standards and guidelines established for such partnerships as
26 determined by the Departments. The Departments shall seek

1 input from legal services organizations, community health
2 advocacy organizations, hospitals, diagnostic and treatment
3 centers, and other primary and specialty health care providers
4 in establishing such standards and guidelines.

5 (c) Grants amounts awarded under the program may be used
6 to expand the capacity of existing medical-legal partnerships
7 and increase programming for vulnerable individuals and
8 families by, at a minimum:

9 (1) expanding their interdisciplinary team of
10 attorneys, physicians, and social workers to address
11 patients' health-harming social and legal needs;

12 (2) increasing patient access to patient-centered case
13 management services through the use of designated social
14 service navigators or care coordinators tasked with
15 assessing and identifying the patient's specific social
16 and legal needs before connecting the patient to
17 wraparound services related to housing instability or
18 homelessness, landlord-tenant mediation, income support
19 and rental assistance, food insecurity, family stability,
20 respite care, immigration, and mental health or substance
21 use treatment; and

22 (3) purchasing the technology and personnel needed to
23 facilitate remote and in-person legal consultations with
24 an attorney.

25 Grants amounts may also be awarded to establish
26 medical-legal partnerships in underserved communities.

1 (d) The following entities are eligible to apply for
2 grants:

3 (1) Community health centers.

4 (2) Private or public hospitals.

5 (3) Nonprofit legal aid organizations.

6 (4) Public health clinics.

7 (5) Federally qualified health centers as defined in
8 Section 1905(1)(2)(B) of the federal Social Security Act.

9 (6) Behavioral health facilities.

10 (7) Law schools.

11 (e) The Department of Healthcare and Family Services shall
12 adopt any rules necessary to implement the program including,
13 but not limited to, rules on application and certification
14 requirements for grant applicants and rules on reporting and
15 data collection for grantees in order to enable the Department
16 to track and ensure that grantees are utilizing grant funds
17 consistent with the purposes of this Section.

18 (f) The Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program Fund is
19 created as a special fund in the State treasury. The fund shall
20 consist of any appropriations made to the Department of
21 Healthcare and Family Services for the purpose of the
22 Medical-Legal Partnership Grant Program and all other moneys
23 received for the fund from any other source. Moneys deposited
24 into the fund shall be used for the Medical-Legal Partnership
25 Grant Program and for no other purpose. All interest earned on
26 moneys in the fund shall be deposited into the fund.

1 (e) The Department shall apply for all federal approvals
2 and waivers necessary to cover wraparound services provided by
3 medical-legal partnerships to medical assistance recipients
4 who have chronic health conditions, as defined by the
5 Department by rule, and health-harming social and legal needs.
6 The wraparound services covered under this subsection shall be
7 available under both the fee-for-service and managed care
8 medical assistance programs and shall not supplant other
9 covered medical assistance benefits that are the
10 responsibility of the Department or a managed care
11 organization to provide to a medical assistance recipient.
12 Implementation of this subsection shall be contingent upon the
13 Department's receipt of all necessary federal approvals and
14 waivers.