

STATE OF NEW YORK

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2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 12, 2021

Introduced by Sens. SANDERS, BROOKS, COMRIE, GIANARIS, JACKSON, KENNEDY, KRUEGER, MAYER, MYRIE, RAMOS, SEPULVEDA, SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Health in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to creating the sickle cell disease detection and education program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Article 24 of the public health law is amended by adding a
2 new title 1-C to read as follows:

3 TITLE I-C

4 SICKLE CELL DISEASE DETECTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

5 Section 2415. Sickle cell disease detection and education program;
6 establishment.

7 2416. Grants to approved organizations.

8 2417. Grants to community-based organizations.

9 2418. Annual report.

10 2419. Advisory council.

11 § 2415. Sickle cell disease detection and education program; estab-
12 lishment. 1. There is hereby created within the department the sickle
13 cell disease detection and education program, hereafter referred to in
14 this title as the "sickle cell disease services program" or "the
15 program", to promote screening and detection of sickle cell disease,
16 especially among unserved or underserved populations; to educate the
17 public regarding sickle cell disease and the benefits of early
18 detection; and to provide counseling and referral services. For purposes
19 of this title, "unserved or underserved populations" means people having

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 inadequate access and financial resources to obtain sickle cell disease
2 screening and detection services, including people who lack health
3 coverage or whose health coverage is inadequate or who cannot meet the
4 financial requirements of their coverage for accessing detection
5 services.

6 2. The program shall include:

7 (a) establishment of a statewide public education and outreach
8 campaign to publicize evidence based sickle cell disease screening,
9 detection and education services. The campaign shall include: general
10 community education, outreach to specific underserved populations,
11 evidence based clinical sickle cell disease screening services, and an
12 informational summary that shall include an explanation of the impor-
13 tance of clinical examinations and what to expect during clinical exam-
14 inations and sickle cell disease screening services;

15 (b) provision of grants to approved organizations under sections twenty-
16 four hundred sixteen and twenty-four hundred seventeen of this title;

17 (c) compilation of data concerning the program and dissemination of
18 such data to the public; and

19 (d) development of health care professional education programs includ-
20 ing the benefits of early detection of sickle cell disease and clinical
21 examinations, the recommended frequency of clinical examinations and
22 sickle cell disease screening services, and professionally recognized
23 best practices guidelines.

24 § 2416. Grants to approved organizations. 1. The commissioner shall
25 make grants within the amounts appropriated to approved organizations
26 for the provision of services relating to the evidence based screening
27 and detection of sickle cell disease as part of this program. The
28 services shall include but not be limited to:

29 (a) promotion and provision of early detection of sickle cell disease,
30 including clinical examinations and sickle cell disease screening
31 services;

32 (b) provision of counseling and information on treatment options and
33 referral for appropriate medical treatment;

34 (c) dissemination of information to unserved and underserved popu-
35 lations, to the general public and to health care professionals concern-
36 ing sickle cell disease, the benefits of early detection and treatment,
37 and the availability of sickle cell disease screening services;

38 (d) identification of local sickle cell disease screening services
39 within the approved organization's region;

40 (e) provision of information, counseling and referral services to
41 individuals diagnosed with sickle cell disease; and

42 (f) provision of information regarding the availability of medical
43 assistance, including medical assistance under title eleven of article
44 five of the social services law, to an individual who requires treatment
45 for sickle cell disease.

46 2. The commissioner shall give notice and provide opportunity to
47 submit applications for grants under the program. In order to be consid-
48 ered for a grant, an applicant must show evidence of the following,
49 relating to the services the applicant proposes to provide:

50 (a) ability to provide and to ensure consistent and quality services
51 under the program;

52 (b) expertise in providing the service;

53 (c) capacity to coordinate services with physicians, hospitals and
54 other appropriate local institutions or agencies;

55 (d) ability to provide the service to unserved or underserved popu-
56 lations; and

1 (e) ability to provide the service in accordance with the standards
2 specified in subdivision three of this section.

3 Applications shall be made on forms provided by the commissioner.

4 3. The commissioner shall develop standards for the implementation of
5 grants under the program by approved organizations, which shall ensure
6 the following:

7 (a) integration of the approved organization with existing health care
8 providers;

9 (b) maximizing third party reimbursement;

10 (c) provision of services to unserved or underserved populations.

11 4. Within the amounts of state or federal funds appropriated for the
12 program, approved organizations may be authorized by the department to
13 provide such services for populations served under this title. Services
14 may include evidence based screening, patient education, counseling,
15 follow-up and referral.

16 § 2417. Grants to community-based organizations. 1. The commissioner
17 shall make grants within amounts appropriated for community-based organ-
18 izations to provide post diagnosis counseling, education and outreach
19 programs for persons diagnosed with sickle cell disease based upon
20 criteria to be developed by the commissioner.

21 2. For the purposes of this section, "community-based organizations"
22 shall mean free-standing organizations in which sickle cell disease
23 survivors hold significant decision-making responsibility, and which
24 offer a broad range of sickle cell disease education and support
25 services free of charge.

26 3. The commissioner shall provide notice and opportunity for communi-
27 ty-based organizations to submit applications to provide post-diagnosis
28 sickle cell disease counseling, education and outreach programs. Such
29 applications shall be on forms established by the commissioner.

30 4. Every organization receiving grants under this title shall submit
31 to the commissioner, on or before October first of each year, a report
32 of such organization's activities, including an assessment of the organ-
33 ization's programs and such data as the commissioner deems relevant and
34 necessary to accomplish the purposes of the program.

35 § 2418. Annual report. The commissioner shall submit on or before
36 December first of each year, an annual report to the governor and the
37 legislature concerning the operation of the program. The reports shall
38 include the experience of the program in providing services under this
39 title. The annual report shall include strategies for implementation of
40 the sickle cell disease awareness program and for promoting the aware-
41 ness program to the general public, state and local elected officials,
42 and various public and private organizations, associations, businesses,
43 industries, and agencies. Organizations receiving grants under this
44 title shall provide data and assessments as the commissioner may require
45 for the report. The report shall include any recommendations for addi-
46 tional action to respond to the incidence of sickle cell disease in this
47 state.

48 § 2419. Advisory council. 1. There is hereby established in the
49 department the sickle cell disease detection and education program advi-
50 sory council, for the purpose of advising the commissioner with regard
51 to the program.

52 2. The advisory council shall advise and make recommendations to the
53 commissioner regarding the promotion and implementation of programs
54 under this title.

55 3. The commissioner shall appoint twenty-one voting members of the
56 advisory council, which shall include representation of health care

1 professionals, consumers, patients, with one voting member who shall be
2 a person who has or has had sickle cell disease. The commissioner shall
3 appoint one member as a chairperson. The members of the council shall
4 receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their
5 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties.

6 4. A majority of the appointed voting membership of the board shall
7 constitute a quorum.

8 5. The advisory council shall meet at least twice a year, at the
9 request of the department.

10 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 207 of the public health law is amended
11 by adding a new paragraph (q) to read as follows:

12 (q) sickle cell disease including but not limited to screening,
13 prevention, and treatment information. The program shall include an
14 advisory council under this section that shall include patients with
15 sickle cell disease and their families and health care providers
16 specializing in treating sickle cell disease, among others.

17 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.