STATE OF NEW YORK

2825

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 25, 2021

Introduced by Sens. SERINO, HELMING, KENNEDY, O'MARA, RITCHIE, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to grants for graduate medical education in Lyme and tick-borne disease

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 2799 to read as follows:

§ 2799. Grants for graduate medical education in Lyme and tick-borne disease. 1. (a) The commissioner is authorized, within amounts appropriated for such purpose to make grants in support of certified fellowship education programs including but not limited to, preventative medicine, chronic disease, or epidemiology, to establish or expand education in Lyme and tick-borne disease for graduate medical education, and to increase the opportunities for trainee education in Lyme and tick-borne disease.

(b) Grants under this subdivision for graduate medical education and education in Lyme and tick-borne disease may be used for administration, faculty recruitment and development, start-up costs and costs incurred teaching Lyme and tick-borne disease in research-based programs or patient-based care sites, including, but not limited to, personnel, administration and trainee related expenses and other expenses judged reasonable and necessary by the commissioner.

(c) Grants under this subdivision shall be awarded by the commissioner through a competitive application process. In making awards, the commissioner shall consider the extent to which the applicant:

(i) plans to incorporate emerging Lyme and tick-borne disease research into fellowship training programs, including diagnostic procedures and all medical treatment options, including the benefits and risks of each option;

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

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(ii) functions in collaboration with research or patient-based care, or both;

(iii) makes complementary efforts to recruit or train qualified faculty in Lyme and tick-borne disease education and prevention; and

(iv) utilizes available Lyme and tick-borne disease diagnostic and treatment, and support services in the community.

2. The commissioner shall designate organizations, upon successful application and performance, as centers for Lyme and tick-borne disease excellence. Such designations shall be pursuant to an application as designed by the department, and based on service, staffing and other criteria as developed by the commissioner. Such centers of excellence shall provide specialized Lyme and tick-borne disease care, treatment, education and related services. Designation as a center for Lyme and tick-borne disease excellence shall not entitle a center to enhanced reimbursement, but may be utilized in outreach and other promotional activities.

3. The commissioner may designate Lyme and tick-borne disease resource centers ("resource center"). A resource center may be statewide or regional, and shall act as a source of technical information and guidance for practitioners on the latest Lyme and tick-borne disease strategies, therapies and medications. The department may contract with not-for-profit organizations or associations to establish and manage resource centers. A resource center may charge a fee to defray the cost of the service.

4. The commissioner shall prepare and submit a report to the governor and the legislature, on or before February first, two thousand twenty-two reporting the results and evaluating the effectiveness of this section.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.