

Introduced: 2/20/85
Referred: Health, Education &
Social Services and Finance

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 215

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to state assistance for community
7 health aide programs; and providing for an effective
8 date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 18 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

11 CHAPTER 28. STATE ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAMS.

12 Sec. 18.28.010. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANTS. (a) A qualified
13 regional health organization is entitled to a grant of \$30,000 each
14 fiscal year for the training and supervision of at least three primary
15 community health aides.

16 (b) During each fiscal year a qualified regional health orga-
17 nization or local health organization is entitled to a grant of \$8,000
18 multiplied by the number of

19 (1) primary community health aides who each week during the
20 previous fiscal year averaged at least 20 hours of service paid for by
21 the health organization, but not to exceed the number of primary
22 community health aides who were employed by the health organization on
23 July 1, 1984; or

24 (2) skilled medical observers who each week during the
25 previous fiscal year averaged at least 20 hours of service paid for by
26 the health organization.

27 (c) A grant under (b) of this section may be used only for

28 (1) training of primary community health aides, including
29 tuition and travel to training programs;

1 (2) supervision of primary community health aides, includ-
2 ing travel for supervisors;

3 (3) alternate community health aides.

4 (d) The department shall compute and pay a grant under this
5 section within the limits of appropriations made for the purpose.

6 Sec. 18.28.020. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for a community
7 health aide grant a regional or local health organization must

8 (1) have received money from the federal government for a
9 community health aide program during the fiscal year for which the
10 grant is sought or be engaged in conducting a program that meets
11 standards established by the department and is similar to a community
12 health aide program;

13 (2) provide the services of community health aides on a
14 nondiscriminatory basis for the benefit of the public;

15 (3) apply for the grant in accordance with application
16 requirements of the department or negotiate a contract with the de-
17 partment if the regional or local health organization provides other
18 contract services for the state; and

19 (4) supply information requested by the department.

20 Sec. 18.28.030. COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE GRANT ACCOUNT. (a) The
21 community health aide grant account is established in the department.
22 Money to carry out the provisions of this chapter shall be appropri-
23 ated to the account and distributed as community health aide grants by
24 the department.

25 (b) Each fiscal year the department shall determine the amount
26 of money needed to fund all grants under AS 18.28.010 during the next
27 fiscal year and shall request an appropriation of that amount from the
28 legislature. If the amount appropriated to the account is not suffi-
29 cient to finance all grants, the money shall be distributed pro rata

1 among qualified regional and local health organizations.

2 Sec. 18.28.040. LIABILITY LIMITATION. The state is not liable
3 for any injury that may result from use of money awarded by the state
4 as a community health aide grant.

5 Sec. 18.28.050. REGULATIONS. The department may adopt regula-
6 tions necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter.

7 Sec. 18.28.100. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter

8 (1) "alternate community health aide" means a person who
9 assists the primary community health aide when necessary and acts in
10 the absence of the primary community health aide;

11 (2) "community health aide" includes a primary community
12 health aide and an alternate health aide;

13 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social
14 Services;

15 (4) "local health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
16 ration or other entity that provides health services in a rural area
17 that is less than 4,000 square miles;

18 (5) "primary community health aide" means a person who has
19 completed the first of three levels of community health aide training
20 offered by the Norton Sound Health Corporation at the Nome Hospital,
21 the Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, or the Alaska Area Native
22 Health Service;

23 (6) "regional health organization" means a nonprofit corpo-
24 ration or home rule borough that provides health services in a rural
25 area that is at least 4,000 square miles;

26 (7) "skilled medical observer" means a person who

27 (A) has received training comparable to a primary
28 community health aide's training, as required by the department;
29 and

1 (B) provides health services in a community that has
2 no primary health care provider and has insufficient population
3 to qualify for a federally funded community health aide program.

4 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect July 1, 1985.