

By Senator Osgood

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to decreasing racial and ethnic  
3           disparities in mental health and substance abuse  
4           services; amending s. 381.7355, F.S.; revising  
5           priority areas for project proposals under the Closing  
6           the Gap grant program to include those addressing  
7           racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity and  
8           mortality rates relating to mental health and  
9           substance use disorders; requiring priority be given  
10          to proposals for areas with the greatest documented  
11          racial and ethnic disparities in the provision of  
12          mental health and substance abuse services; providing  
13          an effective date.

14  
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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17           Section 1. Present paragraphs (b) through (i) of subsection  
18          (3) of section 381.7355, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
19          paragraphs (c) through (j), respectively, a new paragraph (b) is  
20          added to that subsection, and paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of  
21          that section is amended, to read:

22           381.7355 Project requirements; review criteria.—

23           (2) A proposal must include each of the following elements:

24           (a) The purpose and objectives of the proposal, including  
25          identification of the particular racial or ethnic disparity the  
26          project will address. The proposal must address one or more of  
27          the following priority areas:

28           1. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in maternal and  
29          infant mortality rates.

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30           2. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in severe  
31 maternal morbidity rates and other maternal health outcomes.

32           3. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
33 and mortality rates relating to cancer.

34           4. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
35 and mortality rates relating to HIV/AIDS.

36           5. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
37 and mortality rates relating to cardiovascular disease.

38           6. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
39 and mortality rates relating to diabetes.

40           7. Increasing adult and child immunization rates in certain  
41 racial and ethnic populations.

42           8. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in oral health  
43 care.

44           9. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
45 and mortality rates relating to sickle cell disease.

46           10. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
47 and mortality rates relating to Lupus.

48           11. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
49 and mortality rates relating to Alzheimer's disease and  
50 dementia.

51           12. Decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in morbidity  
52 and mortality rates relating to mental health and substance use  
53 disorders.

54           13. Improving neighborhood social determinants of health,  
55 such as transportation, safety, and food access, as outlined by  
56 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Tools for  
57 Putting Social Determinants of Health into Action."

58           (3) Priority shall be given to proposals that:

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59       (b) Represent areas with the greatest documented racial and  
60 ethnic disparities in the provision of mental health and  
61 substance abuse services.

62       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.