

Texas Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) Programs

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Overview

The Texas Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) is a locally administered financing mechanism authorized under Texas law that permits counties, hospital districts, and certain multi-jurisdictional entities to impose mandatory assessments on participating hospitals. Funds collected through an LPPF are used to finance the non-federal share of Medicaid supplemental and directed payment programs, thereby leveraging federal matching funds. These supplemental and directed payment programs are established, administered, and overseen by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

Purpose

LPPFs exist to support Medicaid payments without relying on state general revenue or local property taxes. By pooling hospital assessments locally and transferring them to the state through intergovernmental transfers (IGTs), local governments enable hospitals to receive significantly higher Medicaid reimbursements.

How LPPFs Work

Hospitals within an authorized jurisdiction are assessed a uniform mandatory payment, typically based on net patient revenue. These payments are deposited into a segregated Local Provider Participation Fund. The local government then transfers funds to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to serve as the non-federal share for Medicaid payments. Federal matching funds are drawn down and redistributed back to hospitals through approved Medicaid payment programs.

Programs Supported

LPPF-supported funds are commonly used for Medicaid supplemental and directed payment programs, including uncompensated care payments and uniform rate enhancements. These programs are designed to support hospitals that serve a large share of Medicaid and uninsured patients.

Benefits

LPPFs allow local dollars to leverage substantial federal Medicaid funding, strengthen the financial stability of safety-net hospitals, and avoid increasing property taxes. They provide local control over healthcare financing while supporting access to care.

Legal Framework

The Nueces County Hospital District's LPPF is authorized under Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 298C, and is implemented pursuant to approval by the Board of Managers of the associated Health Care Provider Participation Program. Funds deposited into the LPPF are restricted to authorized health care-related purposes and may not be used to expand

Medicaid eligibility. The program is subject to applicable federal oversight to ensure compliance with Medicaid financing requirements.

Policy Considerations

Key considerations include the financial impact of mandatory assessments on participating hospitals; the administrative and compliance complexity associated with operating an LPPF; and reliance on ongoing state legislative authority and federal policy. While many LPPFs are subject to statutory sunset provisions requiring periodic legislative renewal, the Nueces County Hospital District LPPF is not subject to a sunset provision.

Summary

LPPFs are a central component of Texas's Medicaid financing strategy, enabling local governments and hospitals to maximize federal Medicaid funding while maintaining local control and minimizing taxpayer impact.

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