AN ACT to create 20.435 (1) (fi) and 146.616 of the statutes; relating to: grants for education and training of allied health professionals and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Health Services to distribute grants to hospitals, health systems, and educational entities that form health care education and training consortia for allied health professionals. The bill limits the amount the department may distribute each fiscal year per consortium to $125,000, which may be used for curriculum and faculty development, tuition reimbursement, or clinical site or simulation expenses. The bill also requires a grant recipient to match through its own funding sources the amount of the grant awarded by the department.

For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 20.005 (3) (schedule) of the statutes: at the appropriate place, insert the following amounts for the purposes indicated:
20.435 Health services, department of

(1) Public health services planning, regulation, and delivery

(fi) Allied health professional education and training grants GPR B 250,000 250,000

SECTION 2. 20.435 (1) (fi) of the statutes is created to read:

20.435 (1) (fi) Allied health professional education and training grants.

Biennially, the amounts in the schedule for grants to hospitals, health systems, and educational entities that form health care education and training consortia for training allied health professionals under s. 146.616.

SECTION 3. 146.616 of the statutes is created to read:

146.616 Allied health professional education and training grants. (1)

In this section:

(a) “Allied health professional” means any individual who is a health care provider other than a physician, registered nurse, dentist, pharmacist, chiropractor, or podiatrist and who provides diagnostic, technical, therapeutic, or direct patient care and support services to the patient.

(b) “Clinic” has the meaning given in s. 146.903 (1) (b).

(c) “Hospital” has the meaning given in s. 50.33 (2).

(d) “Rural clinic” means a clinic that is located in a city, town, or village in this state that has a population of less than 20,000.

(e) “Rural hospital” means a hospital that is located in a city, town, or village in this state that has a population of less than 20,000.
(2) From the appropriation under s. 20.435 (1) (fi), subject to subs. (3) to (5), the department shall distribute grants to hospitals, health systems, and educational entities that form health care education and training consortia for allied health professionals. The department shall distribute the grants under this section to hospitals, health systems, and educational entities that apply, in the form and manner determined by the department, to receive a grant and that satisfy the requirements established by the department under sub. (4).

(3) (a) The department may distribute up to $125,000 per fiscal year per consortium to be used for any of the following:

1. Curriculum and faculty development.
2. Tuition reimbursement.
3. Clinical site or simulation expenses.

(b) A recipient awarded a grant under this section shall match through its own funding sources the amount of the grant distributed by the department for the purposes of operating an allied health professional training consortium.

(4) The department shall determine the requirements for the formation of health care education and training consortia for allied health professionals.

(5) In distributing grants under this section, the department shall give preference to rural hospitals, health systems with a rural hospital or rural clinic, and rural educational entities.

SECTION 4. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the day after publication, or on the 2nd day after publication of the 2017 biennial budget act, whichever is later.