

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2667

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants to States to establish or expand quality programs providing home visitation for families with young children and families expecting children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 2, 2009

Mr. McDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PLATTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide grants to States to establish or expand quality programs providing home visitation for families with young children and families expecting children.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Early Support for
5 Families Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO STATES FOR QUALITY HOME VISITA-**
2 **TION PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG**
3 **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EXPECTING CHIL-**
4 **DREN.**

5 Part B of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
6 U.S.C. 621–629i) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 **“Subpart 3—Support for Quality Home Visitation**
9 **Programs**

10 **“SEC. 440. HOME VISITATION PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES**
11 **WITH YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES EX-**
12 **PECTING CHILDREN.**

13 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to im-
14 prove the well-being and development of children by ena-
15 bling the establishment and expansion of quality programs
16 providing voluntary home visitation for families with
17 young children and families expecting children.

18 “(b) GRANT APPLICATION.—A State that desires to
19 receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
20 retary, at such time and in such manner as the Secretary
21 may require, an application for the grant that includes the
22 following:

23 “(1) DESCRIPTION OF HOME VISITATION PRO-
24 GRAMS.—A description of the high quality programs
25 of home visitation for families with young children
26 and families expecting children that will be sup-

1 ported by a grant made to the State under this sec-
2 tion, the outcomes the programs are intended to
3 achieve, and the evidence supporting the effective-
4 ness of the programs.

5 “(2) RESULTS OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—The
6 results of a statewide needs assessment that de-
7 scribes—

8 “(A) the number, quality, and capacity of
9 home visitation programs for families with
10 young children and families expecting children
11 in the State;

12 “(B) the number and types of eligible fam-
13 ilies who are receiving services under the pro-
14 grams;

15 “(C) the sources and amount of funding
16 provided to the programs;

17 “(D) the gaps in early childhood home visi-
18 tation in the State, including identification of
19 communities that are in high need of the serv-
20 ices; and

21 “(E) training and technical assistance ac-
22 tivities designed to achieve or support the goals
23 of the programs.

24 “(3) ASSURANCES.—Assurances from the State
25 that—

1 “(A) in supporting home visitation pro-
2 grams using funds provided under this section,
3 the State shall identify and prioritize serving
4 communities that are in high need of such serv-
5 ices, especially communities with a high propor-
6 tion of low-income families or a high incidence
7 of child maltreatment;

8 “(B) the State will reserve 5 percent of the
9 grant funds for training and technical assist-
10 ance to the home visitation programs using
11 such funds;

12 “(C) in supporting home visitation pro-
13 grams using funds provided under this section,
14 the State will promote coordination and collabo-
15 ration with other child and family services,
16 health services, income supports, and other re-
17 lated assistance;

18 “(D) home visitation programs supported
19 using such funds will, when appropriate, pro-
20 vide referrals to other programs serving chil-
21 dren and families; and

22 “(E) the State will comply with subsection
23 (i), and cooperate with any evaluation con-
24 ducted under subsection (j).

1 “(4) OTHER INFORMATION.—Such other infor-
2 mation as the Secretary may require.

3 “(c) ALLOTMENTS.—

4 “(1) INDIAN TRIBES.—From the amount re-
5 served under subsection (m)(2) for a fiscal year, the
6 Secretary shall allot to each Indian tribe that meets
7 the requirement of subsection (d), if applicable, for
8 the fiscal year the amount that bears the same ratio
9 to the amount so reserved as the number of children
10 in the Indian tribe whose families have income that
11 does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty line bears
12 to the total number of children in such Indian tribes
13 whose families have income that does not exceed 200
14 percent of the poverty line.

15 “(2) STATES AND TERRITORIES.—From the
16 amount appropriated under subsection (n) for a fis-
17 cal year that remains after making the reservations
18 required by subsection (m), the Secretary shall allot
19 to each State that is not an Indian tribe and that
20 meets the requirement of subsection (d), if applica-
21 ble, for the fiscal year the amount that bears the
22 same ratio to the remainder of the amount so appro-
23 priated as the number of children in the State whose
24 families have income that does not exceed 200 per-
25 cent of the poverty line bears to the total number of

1 children in such States whose families have income
2 that does not exceed 200 percent of the poverty line.

3 “(3) REALLOTMENTS.—The amount of any al-
4 lotment to a State under a paragraph of this sub-
5 section for any fiscal year that the State certifies to
6 the Secretary will not be expended by the State pur-
7 suant to this section shall be available for reallocot-
8 ment using the allotment methodology specified in
9 that paragraph. Any amount so reallocated to a State
10 is deemed part of the allotment of the State under
11 this subsection.

12 “(d) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—Beginning with
13 fiscal year 2011, a State meets the requirement of this
14 subsection for a fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the
15 aggregate expenditures by the State for quality programs
16 of home visitation for families with young children and
17 families expecting children for the then preceding fiscal
18 year was not less than 100 percent of such aggregate ex-
19 penditures for the then 2nd preceding fiscal year.

20 “(e) PAYMENT OF GRANT.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a
22 grant to each State that meets the requirements of
23 subsections (b) and (d), if applicable, for a fiscal
24 year for which funds are appropriated under sub-
25 section (n), in an amount equal to the lesser of—

1 “(A) the reimbursable percentage of the el-
2 igible expenditures of the State for the fiscal
3 year; or

4 “(B) the amount allotted to the State
5 under subsection (c) for the fiscal year.

6 “(2) REIMBURSABLE PERCENTAGE DEFINED.—

7 In paragraph (1), the term ‘reimbursable percent-
8 age’ means, with respect to a fiscal year—

9 “(A) 85 percent, in the case of fiscal year
10 2010;

11 “(B) 80 percent, in the case of fiscal year
12 2011; or

13 “(C) 75 percent, in the case of fiscal year
14 2012 and any succeeding fiscal year.

15 “(f) ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
17 ‘eligible expenditures’—

18 “(A) means expenditures to provide vol-
19 untary home visitation for as many families
20 with young children and families expecting chil-
21 dren as practicable, through the implementation
22 or expansion of high quality programs that—

23 “(i) adhere to clear evidence-based
24 models of home visitation that have dem-
25 onstrated significant positive effects on im-

1 portant program-determined child and par-
2 enting outcomes, such as reducing abuse
3 and neglect and improving child health and
4 development;

5 “(ii) employ well-trained and com-
6 petent staff, maintain high quality super-
7 vision, and show strong organizational ca-
8 pacity to implement such a program; and

9 “(iii) establish appropriate linkages
10 and referrals to other community resources
11 and supports; and

12 “(B) includes expenditures for training,
13 technical assistance, and evaluations related to
14 the programs.

15 “(2) PRIORITY FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS WITH
16 STRONGEST EVIDENCE.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The expenditures, de-
18 scribed in paragraph (1), of a State for a fiscal
19 year that are attributable to the cost of pro-
20 grams that do not adhere to a model of home
21 visitation with the strongest evidence of effec-
22 tiveness shall not be considered eligible expendi-
23 tures for the fiscal year to the extent that the
24 total of the expenditures exceeds the applicable
25 percentage for the fiscal year of the allotment

1 of the State under subsection (c) for the fiscal
2 year.

3 “(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE DE-
4 FINED.—In subparagraph (A), the term ‘appli-
5 cable percentage’ means, with respect to a fiscal
6 year—

7 “(i) 60 percent for fiscal year 2010;

8 “(ii) 55 percent for fiscal year 2011;

9 “(iii) 50 percent for fiscal year 2012;

10 “(iv) 45 percent for fiscal year 2013;

11 or

12 “(v) 40 percent for fiscal year 2014.

13 “(g) NO USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS FOR
14 STATE MATCH.—A State to which a grant is made under
15 this section may not expend any Federal funds to meet
16 the State share of the cost of an eligible expenditure for
17 which the State receives a payment under this section.

18 “(h) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may waive
20 or modify the application of any provision of this
21 section, other than subsection (b) or (f), to an In-
22 dian tribe if the failure to do so would impose an
23 undue burden on the Indian tribe.

1 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—An Indian tribe is
2 deemed to meet the requirement of subsection (d)
3 for purposes of subsections (c) and (e) if—

4 “(A) the Secretary waives the requirement;

5 or

6 “(B) the Secretary modifies the require-
7 ment, and the Indian tribe meets the modified
8 requirement.

9 “(i) STATE REPORTS.—Each State to which a grant
10 is made under this section shall submit to the Secretary
11 an annual report on the progress made by the State in
12 addressing the purposes of this section. Each such report
13 shall include a description of—

14 “(1) the services delivered by the programs that
15 received funds from the grant;

16 “(2) the characteristics of each such program,
17 including information on the service model used by
18 the program and the performance of the program;

19 “(3) the characteristics of the providers of serv-
20 ices through the program, including staff qualifica-
21 tions, work experience, and demographic characteris-
22 tics;

23 “(4) the characteristics of the recipients of serv-
24 ices provided through the program, including the

1 number of the recipients, the demographic charac-
2 teristics of the recipients, and family retention;

3 “(5) the annual cost of implementing the pro-
4 gram, including the cost per family served under the
5 program;

6 “(6) the outcomes experienced by recipients of
7 services through the program;

8 “(7) the training and technical assistance pro-
9 vided to aid implementation of the program, and
10 how the training and technical assistance contrib-
11 uted to the outcomes achieved through the program;
12 and

13 “(8) the indicators and methods used to mon-
14 itor whether the program is being implemented as
15 designed.

16 “(j) EVALUATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, by
18 grant or contract, provide for the conduct of an
19 independent evaluation of the effectiveness of home
20 visitation programs receiving funds provided under
21 this section, which shall examine the following:

22 “(A) The effect of home visitation pro-
23 grams on child and parent outcomes, including
24 child maltreatment, child health and develop-

1 ment, school readiness, and links to community
2 services.

3 “(B) The effectiveness of home visitation
4 programs on different populations, including
5 the extent to which the ability of programs to
6 improve outcomes varies across programs and
7 populations.

8 “(2) REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—

9 “(A) INTERIM REPORT.—Within 2 years
10 after the date of the enactment of this section,
11 the Secretary shall submit to the Congress an
12 interim report on the evaluation conducted pur-
13 suant to paragraph (1).

14 “(B) FINAL REPORT.—Within 4 years
15 after the date of the enactment of this section,
16 the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a
17 final report on the evaluation conducted pursu-
18 ant to paragraph (1).

19 “(k) ANNUAL REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—The
20 Secretary shall submit annually to the Congress a report
21 on the activities carried out using funds made available
22 under this section, which shall include a description of the
23 following:

24 “(1) The high need communities targeted by
25 States for programs carried out under this section.

1 “(2) The service delivery models used in the
2 programs receiving funds provided under this sec-
3 tion.

4 “(3) The characteristics of the programs, in-
5 cluding—

6 “(A) the qualifications and demographic
7 characteristics of program staff; and

8 “(B) recipient characteristics including the
9 number of families served, the demographic
10 characteristics of the families served, and fam-
11 ily retention and duration of services.

12 “(4) The outcomes reported by the programs.

13 “(5) The research-based instruction, materials,
14 and activities being used in the activities funded
15 under the grant.

16 “(6) The training and technical activities, in-
17 cluding on-going professional development, provided
18 to the programs.

19 “(7) The annual costs of implementing the pro-
20 grams, including the cost per family served under
21 the programs.

22 “(8) The indicators and methods used by States
23 to monitor whether the programs are being been im-
24 plemented as designed.

1 “(l) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS.—From the amounts
2 appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (m), the
3 Secretary shall reserve—

4 “(1) \$10,000,000 to pay the cost of the evalua-
5 tion provided for in subsection (k), and the provision
6 to States of training and technical assistance, in-
7 cluding the dissemination of best practices in early
8 childhood home visitation; and

9 “(2) after making the reservation required by
10 paragraph (1), an amount equal to 3 percent of the
11 amount so appropriated, to pay for grants to Indian
12 tribes under this section.

13 “(m) APPROPRIATIONS.—Out of any money in the
14 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated,
15 there is appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this
16 section—

17 “(1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;

18 “(2) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;

19 “(3) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;

20 “(4) \$550,000,000 for fiscal year 2013; and

21 “(5) \$700,000,000 for fiscal year 2014.

22 “(n) INDIAN TRIBES TREATED AS STATES.—In this
23 section, paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of section 431(a)
24 shall apply.”.

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