

{Excerpt from Iowa Senate File 2321}

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE FUNDING OF, THE OPERATION OF, AND APPROPRIATION OF MONEYS TO THE COLLEGE STUDENT AID COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AND THE STATE BOARD OF REGENTS, AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATE PROVISIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

...

12. EARLY CHILDHOOD IOWA FUND — FAMILY SUPPORT AND PARENT EDUCATION

a. For deposit in the school ready children grants account of the early childhood Iowa fund created in section 256I.11:

..... \$ 6,182,217  
12,364,434

b. The amount appropriated in this subsection shall be used for family support services and parent education programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age five and shall be distributed using the distribution formula approved by the early childhood Iowa state board and shall be used by an early childhood Iowa area board only for family support services and parent education programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age five.

c. In order to implement the legislative intent stated in sections 135.106 and 256I.9, that priority for home visitation program funding be given to programs using evidence-based or promising models for home visitation, it is the intent of the general assembly to phase in the funding priority as follows:

(1) By July 1, 2013, 25 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models.

(2) By July 1, 2014, 50 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models.

(3) By July 1, 2015, 75 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models.

(4) By July 1, 2016, 90 percent of state funds expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising program models. The remaining 10 percent of funds may be used for innovative program models that do not yet meet the definition of evidence-based or promising programs.

d. For the purposes of this subsection, unless the context requires:

(1) “Evidence-based program” means a program that is based on scientific evidence demonstrating that the program model is effective. An evidence-based program shall be reviewed on site and compared to program model standards by the model developer or the developer’s designee at least every five years to ensure that the program continues to maintain fidelity with the program model. The program model shall have had demonstrated significant and sustained positive outcomes in an evaluation utilizing a well-designed and rigorous randomized controlled research design or a quasi-experimental research design, and the evaluation results shall have been published in a peer-reviewed journal.

(2) “Family support programs” includes group-based parent education or home visiting programs that are designed to strengthen protective factors, including parenting skills, increasing parental knowledge of child development, and increasing family functioning and problem solving skills. A family support program may be used as an early intervention strategy to improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family economic success, the home learning environment, family and child involvement with others, and coordination with other community resources. A family support program may have a specific focus on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

(3) “Promising program” means a program that meets all of the following requirements:

(a) The program conforms to a clear, consistent family support model that has been in existence for at least three years.

(b) The program is grounded in relevant empirically-based knowledge.

(c) The program is linked to program-determined outcomes.

(d) The program is associated with a national or state organization that either has comprehensive program standards that ensure high-quality service delivery and continuous program quality improvement or the program model has demonstrated through the program’s

benchmark outcomes that the program has achieved significant positive outcomes equivalent to those achieved by program models with published significant and sustained results in a peer-reviewed journal.

(e) The program has been awarded the Iowa family support credential and has been reviewed on site at least every five years to ensure the program's adherence to the Iowa family support standards approved by the early childhood Iowa state board created in section 256I.3 or a comparable set of standards. The on-site review is completed by an independent review team that is not associated with the program or the organization administering the program.

e. (1) The data reporting requirements adopted by the early childhood Iowa state board pursuant to section 256I.4 for the family support programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age five and funded through the board shall require the programs to participate in a state administered internet-based data collection system by July 1, 2013. The data reporting requirements shall be developed in a manner to provide for compatibility with local data collection systems. The state board's annual report submitted each January to the governor and general assembly under section 256I.4 shall include family support program outcomes beginning with the January 2015 report.

(2) The data on families served that is collected by the family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative shall include but is not limited to basic demographic information, services received, funding utilized, and program outcomes for the children and families served. The state board shall adopt performance benchmarks for the family support programs and shall revise the Iowa family support credential to incorporate the performance benchmarks on or before January 1, 2014.

(3) The state board shall identify minimum competency standards for the employees and supervisors of family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative. The state board shall submit recommendations concerning the standards to the governor and general assembly on or before January 1, 2014.

(4) On or before January 1, 2013, the state board shall adopt criminal and child abuse record check requirements for the employees and supervisors of family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative.

(5) The state board shall develop a plan to implement a coordinated intake and referral process for publicly funded family support programs in order to engage the families expecting a

child or with newborn and infant children through age five in all communities in the state by July 1, 2015.