



National Association of Public  
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

## **Legislative Summary**

### **Early Support for Families Act (H.R. 2667)**

Chairman Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) and Rep. Danny Davis (D-Ill.), members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, introduced the Early Support for Families Act (H.R. 2667) on June 2, 2009.

#### **New Resources for Prevention**

H.R. 2667 focuses on President Barack Obama's new home visiting initiative. The legislation adds subpart 3 to Title IV-B to provide grants to states to establish or expand quality home visitation programs for families with young children and those expecting children. To participate in these programs, families with children must be 200 percent below the poverty threshold. These resources are also made available to tribes whose families meet the same percentage.

#### **Poverty Target for Resources**

The bill gives the grant formula as the number of children in the state below the poverty threshold as a ratio to the national numbers.

States must ensure that funding priority is given to serving high-need communities, especially those with a high proportion of low-income families or high incidences of child maltreatment. Additionally, states must ensure that they are coordinating and collaborating with other child and family services, health services, income supports and other related assistance.

#### **Required Needs Assessment and MOE**

Before a state applies, it must conduct a needs assessment, which includes the current capacity of the programs, the number of beneficiaries, available funding, areas of high need, and training and technical assistance activities. The bill does not appropriate funds for these needs assessments.

States may apply for the resources by providing a description of the programs; the outcomes they hope to achieve; evidence that supports the programs' effectiveness and any other information that the secretary deems necessary. States must set aside 5 percent of the total allotment for training and technical assistance for the programs. Additionally, there is a maintenance-of-effort provision of not less than 100 percent of expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.

#### **Funding Levels**

Funding for the program is as follows; \$100 million for the first year, \$250 million for the second year, \$400 million for the third year, \$550 million for the fourth year and \$700 million for the fifth year. There is a state-match component at 15 percent the first year, 20 percent the second year, and 25 percent the third year.

States must designate a growing proportion of the funds to evidence-based models that have demonstrated significant positive outcomes. Forty percent of the programs must be evidence-based in the first year, 45 percent in the second year, 50 percent in the third year, 55 percent in the fourth year, and 60 percent the final year. States may not use other federal funding streams as its match for the grants; it is implied that this includes resources from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The evidence-based model programs that have a lower state match must adhere to a clear evidence-based model and have clearly demonstrated positive outcomes, maintain high-quality staff, and linkages to appropriate community referrals. The programs within these models must include resources for training, technical assistance and evaluations.

### **Reporting Requirements**

States that receive grants have reporting requirements including: a description of services delivered, characteristics on the service model, and the performance of the program. The characteristics reporting requirements include information on the providers of the services, such as qualifications, work experience and demographics. Additionally, states must report on the characteristics of the service recipients including number, demographics and family retention. States must provide the secretary with the annual costs of implementing the program and detail the cost per families served. States must also report the outcomes experienced by the families and their children.

### **Report to Congress**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services may conduct an evaluation of the programs. The secretary will report to Congress within two years of enactment, including the high-need communities targeted by states' programs, the service delivery models used, and program characteristics.

### **Congressional Action**

Chairman Jim McDermott held a hearing to review the legislation in June and National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators provided a statement for the record.

### **NAPCWA's Position**

NAPCWA is reviewing the legislation and has yet to take a position. NAPCWA sent a letter to Congress regarding the home visitation initiative offered by the president and asked to be consulted during the drafting of the legislation.

### **Contact Information**

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