



National Association of Public
Child Welfare Administrators

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

Legislative Summary

Education Begins At Home Act of 2009 (H.R. 2205)

Rep. Danny Davis (D-Ill.), a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, introduced the Education Begins at Home Act of 2009 (H.R. 2205) on April 30, 2009. The goal of the bill is to expand quality early childhood home visitation programs that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays. The legislation is identical to H.R. 2343, introduced by Rep. Davis in the 110th Congress and voted out of committee.

The legislation focuses on President Obama's new home visiting initiative. H.R. 2205 would make grant funding available to states, localities and tribes to establish or expand early childhood home visitation services to pregnant women and parents of children from birth until they enter kindergarten. The bill would extend home visitation services to relatives and foster parents. The legislation was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Armed Forces, due to provisions related to English language learners and military families.

Senators Kit Bond (R-Mo.), Pat Murray (D-Wash.) introduced the Education Begins at Home Act (S. 244) on Jan. 14, 2009. The goal of S. 244 is to promote birth parents' ability to support the social and physical development of their child. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Home Visitation Programs

H.R. 2205 requires grantees to provide:

- Voluntary early childhood home visitation services to children and families at least once a month;
- Training and technical assistance to program staff; and
- Access to early childhood, child care, child welfare, and income security services.

Types of Grants:

- Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation, and applicants include:
 - Public or private community-based agencies that serve eligible families or are capable of providing quality home visitation services;
- Targeted Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation for Families with English Language Learners, and applicants include:
 - Local educational agencies that support early childhood development and work with families that are English language learners; and
- Targeted Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation for Military Families, and applicants include:

- Agencies that serve military families expecting a child or have a child (ages 0–5) to promote positive parenting skills and increase parental involvement.

State Grant Allotments

The secretaries of Health and Human Services, Education, and Defense must determine state grant allocations. Funds are allocated through a grant formula, which includes the number of children (ages 0–5) whose families are living below the state’s poverty line compared with the number of individuals living in the state. Distributions of funds must be based on the following:

- 3 percent to conduct an evaluation on home visitation activities;
- No more than 3 percent to federal administrative costs;
- No more than 2 percent to tribes and tribal organizations; and
- 10 percent shall be reserved for training and technical assistance on early childhood home visitation programs.

State Plan

The state plan must include, at a minimum, a description of:

- Early childhood home visitation programs that promote positive parenting skills and children’s early learning and development;
- Collaboration with Child Protection, Head Start and Early Head Start, TANF, Child Support, Medicaid and CHIP programs; and
- Services made available to grandparents, relatives, foster parents and primary caregivers.

Funding Levels

FY 2010 grant funding levels are as followed:

- Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation are appropriated at \$150 million;
- Targeted Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation for Families with English Language Learners are appropriated at \$20 million; and
- Targeted Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation for Military Families are appropriated at \$20 million.

States may use funds to develop research-based home visitation models and offer skill building and peer support groups for families. Funds may be available for FY 2011 through FY 2014.

State Match

Grantees must provide a nonfederal match to receive Grants for Early Childhood Home Visitation. State match requirements are as followed:

- 10 percent for FY 2010;
- 20 percent for FY 2012; and
- 30 percent for FY 2013;

Maintenance of Effort

There is a maintenance-of-effort requirement that states use no less than 100 percent of expenditures for the proceeding fiscal year. MOE requirements apply to all grant funding programs under H.R. 2205.

Supplement Not Supplant

States are required to supplement and not supplant federal and nonfederal funds to carry out activities under the legislation. Supplement and not supplant restrictions apply to all grant funding programs under the legislation.

Peer Review Panel

The HHS secretary must establish a peer review panel and include early childhood and home visitation experts to review grant applications. Applications must be approved based on the panel's recommendations.

Reporting Requirements

Each grantee must submit an annual report to the HHS secretary and include:

- Outcomes that are consistent with the program goals;
- A description on research-based instruction, materials and activities; and
- A description of training and technical assistance, including on-going professional development.

States must report on characteristics of program recipients, including staff qualifications, demographics and family retention. States must also provide information on annual costs for implementing the program and provide details about the cost per families served.

Public Education Awareness Campaign

The HHS secretary must develop and implement a national campaign to inform new parents about the importance of proper care for infants and children (ages 0–5 years old). This campaign must include information about healthy parent-child relationships, the demands of stress associated with caring for infants, and positive responses to infants with social, emotional and physical needs.

Moreover, funds can be used to create media releases and public service announcements promoting home visitation programs, maternity hospitals, child care and prenatal centers. H.R. 2205 requires the HHS secretary to ensure that no unnecessary burdens are placed on hospitals, military hospitals and birth centers receiving educational materials.

Report to Congress & Evaluation

The HHS secretary shall submit an annual report and conduct an evaluation on home visitation programs. The evaluation must include an interim report, a final report, and an independent study on the effects of home visitation and parent outcomes. The HHS secretary must submit the interim report to Congress no later than two years after the date of enactment. The final report must be submitted no later than four years after the date of enactment.

NAPCWA's Position

The National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators is reviewing the legislation and has yet to take a position. NAPCWA sent a letter to Congress regarding the president's home visitation initiative and asked to be consulted during the drafting of the legislation.

Contact Information

For more information or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Courteney Holden, senior legislative associate, at (202) 682-0100 x249 or at courteney.holden@aphsa.org. You may also contact Rashida Brown, legislative associate, at (202) 682-0100 x225 or rashida.brown@aphsa.org.