

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 20-0210.01 Jane Ritter x4342

SENATE BILL 20-144

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fields and Lee,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Larson and Michaelson Jenet,

Senate Committees
Health & Human Services

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING EXPANDING THE AVAILABILITY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD**
102 **HOME VISITING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL READINESS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill creates the home visiting expansion grant program (grant program) in the department of human services (department). The purpose of the grant program is to expand the number of children and families served by nationally recognized, evidence-based home visiting models (models) throughout the state and thus improve school readiness of Colorado children. The grant program has 2 cycles of 3 years each and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

shall award up to a total of \$2 million in grants for each cycle, payable in equal annual amounts.

The state board of human services is authorized to promulgate rules that specify the criteria for the grant program, including eligibility of applicants and models, timeline, and review and selection criteria.

The department is required to prepare an evaluation report at the conclusion of each grant cycle and present that report as part of its next "SMART Act" report to its committee of reference.

The grant program is repealed, effective September 1, 2028.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 declares that:

4 (a) All families need additional support following the birth of a
5 child and during the early childhood years in order to foster strong
6 caregiver and child relationships and healthy child development;

7 (b) A child's first experiences and relationships set the foundation
8 for development and learning that leads to success in school and later in
9 life;

10 (c) Research on the brain development of young children
11 demonstrates that the most rapid period of brain development occurs
12 between zero and three years of age and that the foundations of healthy
13 social, emotional, and cognitive development are constructed during those
14 early years;

15 (d) For a child to be ready to successfully enter kindergarten,
16 school readiness needs to equally address three components:

17 (I) The readiness of the child;

18 (II) The readiness of the school; and

19 (III) The readiness of the family and community to support the
20 child's success; and

1 (e) As an essential component of the early care and learning
2 system, family support programs have successfully demonstrated the
3 ability to address outcomes associated with improving school readiness,
4 including promoting solid parent-child relationships, improving child
5 social-emotional and physical health, identifying developmental delays
6 early, providing early intervention services, and preventing trauma and
7 toxic stress.

8 (2) (a) The general assembly further finds that, in particular,
9 voluntary, high-quality, and evidence-based home visiting programs
10 support parents to develop the skills and confidence needed to promote
11 their child's healthy development and learning by meeting families in a
12 location of the family's choosing.

13 (b) The home visiting system and home visiting programs are a
14 strategy that can be leveraged to provide early supportive services to more
15 Colorado families with fewer resources and exposed to risk factors that
16 may lead to poor developmental outcomes. By doing so, the home visiting
17 system and home visiting programs can support Colorado's children in
18 reaching their full potential and being ready for school.

19 (c) Many home visiting programs that are currently being
20 administered in Colorado have met the Level 5 evidence criteria as
21 documented in the evidence continuum utilized by the governor's office
22 of state planning and budgeting.

23 (d) Colorado studies have found a benefit of \$1.50 to \$6.10 for
24 every dollar spent on evidence-based home visiting programs delivered
25 in Colorado.

26 (3) Therefore, the general assembly declares that investing early
27 in the home visiting system and home visiting programs is one of the best

1 strategies we can utilize within Colorado to set our children up for future
2 success and ensure all Colorado children are ready for kindergarten.

3 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** part 4 to article
4 6.5 of title 26 as follows:

5 PART 4

6 EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME

7 VISITING SYSTEM AND PROGRAMS

8 **26-6.5-401. Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS PART 4, UNLESS THE
9 CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

10 (1) "ENTITY" INCLUDES LOCAL GOVERNMENT SITES, PUBLIC OR
11 NONSECTARIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, A GROUP OF PUBLIC OR
12 NONSECTARIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR GROUP OF
13 SCHOOL DISTRICTS, A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES, AN INSTITUTION
14 OF HIGHER EDUCATION, A PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, OR A
15 COMMUNITY-BASED NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.

16 (2) "GRANT PROGRAM" MEANS THE HOME VISITING EXPANSION
17 GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 26-6.5-402.

18 (3) (a) "HOME VISITING" OR "HOME VISITING SYSTEM" IS:

19 (I) A STRATEGY TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO A FAMILY
20 BY MEETING IN A LOCATION OF THE FAMILY'S CHOOSING, THUS HELPING
21 OVERCOME BARRIERS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TRADITIONAL SERVICES;

22 (II) BASED ON UTILIZING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED,
23 EVIDENCE-BASED MODELS THAT FOCUS ON PROVIDING SUPPORT TO
24 FAMILIES TO BUILD KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY TO SUPPORT A CHILD'S
25 HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING. THE VARIOUS MODELS TO BE
26 FUNDED THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM MUST INCLUDE A CONTINUUM OF
27 SERVICES THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE FAMILY DURING AND

1 FOLLOWING PREGNANCY THROUGH THE CHILD'S ENTRANCE INTO
2 KINDERGARTEN; HOWEVER, NO SINGLE MODEL IS REQUIRED TO SERVE
3 CHILDREN FROM ALL AGE GROUPS.

4 (III) BASED ON UTILIZING NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED,
5 EVIDENCE-BASED MODELS THAT PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE ARRAY OF
6 SERVICES THAT SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTHY CAREGIVER
7 AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP, AS WELL AS SUCCESSFUL EARLY CHILDHOOD
8 HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

9 (b) "HOME VISITING" OR "HOME VISITING SYSTEM" DOES NOT
10 INCLUDE:

11 (I) THE PROVISION OF CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES OR A
12 ONE-TIME HOME VISIT OR INFREQUENT HOME VISITS, SUCH AS A HOME
13 VISIT FOR A NEWBORN CHILD OR A CHILD IN PRESCHOOL;

14 (II) PROGRAMS WHERE THE PRIMARY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE
15 REFERRALS TO OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES; OR

16 (III) SERVICES DELIVERED THROUGH AN INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY
17 SERVICE PLAN OR AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM UNDER PART
18 B OR PART C OF THE FEDERAL "INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
19 EDUCATION ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 1400 ET SEQ.

20 (4) "HOME VISITING MODEL" OR "MODEL" MEANS A NATIONALLY
21 RECOGNIZED, EVIDENCE-BASED MODEL THAT HAS BEEN RESEARCHED
22 EXTENSIVELY AS TO ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN HOME VISITING AND IS
23 IMPLEMENTED ON A LOCAL LEVEL BY A QUALIFIED LOCAL
24 IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY. EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING MODELS
25 HAVE DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE OUTCOMES AND HAVE
26 PROVEN OR PROMISING LEVELS OF EVIDENCE. PROVEN PRACTICES HAVE
27 DEMONSTRATED A HIGH LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

1 THROUGH AT LEAST TWO HIGH-QUALITY RANDOMIZED-CONTROLLED
2 TRIALS. PROMISING PRACTICES HAVE DEMONSTRATED A MODERATE LEVEL
3 OF EFFECTIVENESS UTILIZING EITHER ONE HIGH-QUALITY
4 RANDOMIZED-CONTROLLED TRIAL OR TWO HIGH-QUALITY
5 QUASI-EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN STUDIES.

6 (5) "IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT RECEIVES
7 A GRANT THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT A SPECIFIC HOME
8 VISITING MODEL. THE IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY WORKS
9 COLLABORATIVELY WITH A STATE INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION.

10 (6) "INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION" MEANS A STATE-BASED
11 ORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL MODEL TO
12 ASSIST IMPLEMENTATION ENTITIES IN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF A
13 SPECIFIC HOME VISITING MODEL ON THE LOCAL LEVEL. AN INTERMEDIARY
14 ORGANIZATION SHALL ASSIST IN:

- 15 (a) ASSESSING COMMUNITY READINESS AND SITE SELECTION;
- 16 (b) PROVIDING TRAINING, COACHING, AND PROGRAMMATIC
17 SUPPORT;
- 18 (c) MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MODEL AND
19 CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT; AND
- 20 (d) EVALUATING SITE-SPECIFIC AND STATEWIDE OUTCOMES.

21 (7) "STATE BOARD" MEANS THE STATE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
22 AUTHORIZED TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION
23 26-1-107.

24 (8) "STATE DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
25 HUMAN SERVICES.

26 **26-6.5-402. Home visiting expansion grant program -**
27 **established - purpose - eligibility - rules.** (1) (a) THE HOME VISITING

1 EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
2 THE PURPOSE OF THE GRANT PROGRAM IS TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF
3 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED BY HOME VISITING MODELS
4 THROUGHOUT THE STATE, THUS IMPROVING SCHOOL READINESS FOR
5 COLORADO CHILDREN.

6 (b) (I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2021, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
7 SHALL ANNOUNCE GRANT AWARDS THAT TOTAL NO MORE THAN TWO
8 MILLION DOLLARS OVER A THREE-YEAR GRANT PERIOD. EACH GRANT IS
9 DESIGNED TO COVER THE IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY'S COSTS RELATED TO
10 THE ENTITY'S SPECIFIC HOME VISITING MODEL FOR A PERIOD OF THREE
11 YEARS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE ONE-THIRD OF EACH
12 GRANTEE'S AWARD ANNUALLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR
13 OF THE THREE-YEAR GRANT PERIOD.

14 (II) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2024, THE STATE DEPARTMENT
15 SHALL BEGIN A SECOND GRANT CYCLE AND ANNOUNCE GRANT AWARDS
16 THAT TOTAL NO MORE THAN TWO MILLION DOLLARS OVER A SECOND
17 THREE-YEAR GRANT PERIOD. EACH GRANT IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE
18 IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY'S COSTS RELATED TO THE ENTITY'S SPECIFIC
19 HOME VISITING MODEL FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS. THE STATE
20 DEPARTMENT SHALL DISTRIBUTE ONE-THIRD OF EACH GRANTEE'S AWARD
21 ANNUALLY ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR OF THE THREE-YEAR
22 GRANT PERIOD. ENTITIES THAT RECEIVED A GRANT IN THE FIRST GRANT
23 CYCLE MAY REAPPLY IN THE SECOND CYCLE.

24 (III) ALL THE REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY RULE
25 OF THE STATE BOARD FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO
26 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION APPLY EQUALLY TO THE FIRST AND
27 SECOND GRANT CYCLES.

1 (2) AN IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A
2 GRANT IF IT UTILIZES A HOME VISITING MODEL THAT:

3 (a) MEETS COMPREHENSIVE HOME VISITING STANDARDS THAT
4 ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY SERVICE DELIVERY AND CONTINUOUS QUALITY
5 IMPROVEMENT. THE MODEL MUST HAVE DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT,
6 SUSTAINED POSITIVE OUTCOMES.

7 (b) INCREASES CHILD AND FAMILY SCHOOL READINESS AND
8 ADDRESSES ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

9 (I) BUILDING HEALTHY CAREGIVER AND CHILD RELATIONSHIPS;

10 (II) IMPROVING PRENATAL, MATERNAL, OR INFANT HEALTH
11 OUTCOMES;

12 (III) PREVENTING AND REDUCING CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND
13 INJURY;

14 (IV) PROMOTING POSITIVE PARENTING PRACTICES, INCLUDING
15 NURTURING AND BONDING;

16 (V) ENHANCING CHILDREN'S SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL
17 HEALTH; AND

18 (VI) IMPROVING FAMILY ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

19 (3) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A GRANT, AN IMPLEMENTATION ENTITY
20 SHALL, AT A MINIMUM, MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

21 (a) FOLLOW A HOME VISITING MODEL THAT SPECIFIES THE
22 PURPOSE, OUTCOMES, DURATION, AND FREQUENCY OF THE MODEL'S
23 SERVICES;

24 (b) PROVIDE CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY APPROPRIATE
25 SERVICES;

26 (c) PROVIDE TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES;

27 (d) PROVIDE FOR VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION BY THE FAMILY.

1 PARTICIPATION IN A HOME VISITING MODEL IS VOLUNTARY, AND MODELS
2 ARE NOT DESIGNED OR INTENDED TO INTERFERE WITH THE RIGHTS OF
3 PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, OR LEGAL GUARDIANS.

4 (e) SUPPORT WELL-TRAINED STAFF AND PROVIDE CONTINUAL
5 PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE MODEL BEING
6 IMPLEMENTED;

7 (f) BE GUIDED IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION BY AN INTERMEDIARY
8 ORGANIZATION DESIGNATED BY THE NATIONAL MODEL TO ENSURE
9 FIDELITY TO MODEL STANDARDS; AND

10 (g) CONTINUALLY EVALUATE MODEL OUTCOMES TO DETERMINE
11 MODEL SUCCESS.

12 (4) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, THE STATE BOARD SHALL
13 PROMULGATE RULES FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM. THE RULES MUST
14 INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

15 (a) THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTIONS (2) AND (3) OF THIS
16 SECTION;

17 (b) GOALS FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING SERVING ALL
18 AGE GROUPS FROM PRENATAL THROUGH KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THE
19 GRANT PROGRAM AND PRIORITIZING TARGET POPULATIONS, INCLUDING
20 IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, PERSONS FROM DIVERSE SOCIOECONOMIC
21 BACKGROUNDS, AND RURAL AND FRONTIER COMMUNITIES. NO SINGLE
22 MODEL IS REQUIRED TO SERVE CHILDREN FROM ALL AGES AND
23 POPULATIONS IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR A GRANT.

24 (c) A TIMELINE FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING A REQUEST
25 FOR PROPOSALS NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, FOR THE FIRST
26 GRANT CYCLE AND SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, FOR THE SECOND GRANT CYCLE;
27 DEADLINES BY WHICH APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR THE FIRST

1 AND SECOND GRANT CYCLES; ANNOUNCEMENT OF GRANT AWARDS; AND
2 DEADLINES TO SIGN CONTRACTS WITH IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES AND
3 INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS; AND

4 (d) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SELECTION CRITERIA TO BE USED BY
5 THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN DETERMINING GRANT RECIPIENTS, INCLUDING
6 A REQUIREMENT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW
7 APPLICATIONS IN CONSULTATION WITH A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
8 CORRESPONDING INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION FOR A GIVEN MODEL.
9 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS MUST DEMONSTRATE A PROBABILITY OF SUCCESS
10 TO:

11 (I) RECRUIT, TRAIN, AND SUPPORT HOME VISITING PROVIDERS;

12 (II) SUCCESSFULLY DELIVER THE SPECIFIED HOME VISITING MODEL;

13 (III) COLLECT AND MAINTAIN DATA AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE
14 AND THE MODEL AND PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL EVALUATIONS;

15 (IV) ALIGN AND COORDINATE WITH THE INTERMEDIARY
16 ORGANIZATION THAT SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIED NATIONAL MODEL WITHIN
17 COLORADO; AND

18 (V) COOPERATE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN ITS FINANCIAL
19 ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT PROGRAM, INCLUDING WORKING WITH
20 THE OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR IF REQUESTED.

21 **26-6.5-403. Home visiting expansion grant program -**

22 **administration.** (1) (a) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE
23 GRANT PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION
24 ENTITIES THAT RECEIVE GRANTS AS WELL AS THE APPLICABLE
25 INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS. THE STATE DEPARTMENT MAY UTILIZE UP
26 TO TEN PERCENT OF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR THE GRANT
27 PROGRAM FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES.

1 (b) THE STATE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONTRACT WITH THE
2 INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION THAT IS DESIGNATED BY THE MODEL
3 DEVELOPER TO REPRESENT THE MODEL AT THE STATE LEVEL SO THE
4 INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATION CAN ASSIST WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
5 THE MODEL IT REPRESENTS.

6 (2) THIS PART 4 DOES NOT AMEND, ALTER, OR CHANGE THE
7 PROVISIONS OF THE "COLORADO NURSE HOME VISITOR PROGRAM ACT"
8 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6.4 OF THIS TITLE 26 OR ANY OTHER
9 STATUTE PROVIDING FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS PURSUANT TO SUCH ACT.

10 **26-6.5-404. Home visiting expansion grant program -**
11 **reporting requirements - evaluation.** (1) THE STATE DEPARTMENT
12 SHALL PREPARE AN EVALUATION REPORT ON THE GRANT PROGRAM SIX
13 MONTHS AFTER THE END OF EACH GRANT CYCLE. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL
14 PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION REPORTS AS PART OF ITS
15 PRESENTATION TO ITS COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AT A HEARING HELD
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-7-203 (2)(a) OF THE "STATE MEASUREMENT FOR
17 ACCOUNTABLE, RESPONSIVE, AND TRANSPARENT (SMART)
18 GOVERNMENT ACT" IN JANUARY 2025 AND JANUARY 2028. THE REPORTS
19 MUST INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

- 20 (a) THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED;
- 21 (b) DEMOGRAPHIC DATA ON FAMILIES SERVED;
- 22 (c) THE NUMBER OF UNIQUE HOME VISITING MODELS FUNDED;
- 23 (d) THE STATED GOALS AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED FOR EACH
24 FUNDED MODEL; AND
- 25 (e) DATA SUMMARIZING FUNDING UTILIZED FOR PROVEN AND
26 PROMISING MODELS.

27 **26-6.5-405. Repeal of part.** THIS PART 4 IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE

1 SEPTEMBER 1, 2028.

2 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
3 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
4 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
5 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a
6 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
7 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
8 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
9 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
10 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
11 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.