CHAPTER 345

## EARLY CHILDHOOD - PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SENATE BILL 22-213

BY SENATOR(S) Fields and Sonnenberg, Bridges, Buckner, Coleman, Coram, Danielson, Donovan, Ginal, Gonzales, Hansen, Hinrichsen, Jaquez Lewis, Kolker, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Priola, Smallwood, Story, Winter, Fenberg; also REPRESENTATIVE(S) Valdez A. and Tipper, Amabile, Bacon, Benavidez, Bernett, Bird, Boesenecker, Caraveo, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Herod, Jodeh, Kipp, Lindsay, Lontine, McCluskie, McCormick, McLachlan, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Ortiz, Roberts, Sirota, Snyder, Titone, Valdez D., Woodrow, Young, Garnett.

## AN ACT

CONCERNING CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR NECESSARY CHILD CARE PROGRAMS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as added by House Bill 22-1295,** 26.5-3-801 (2)(b) as follows:

**26.5-3-801.** Legislative declaration. (2) (b) The general assembly further finds that, to assist the state's workforce in returning to work and maintaining employment without facing the difficult choice between working and accessing quality child care, it is critical that the state allocate and quickly distribute funding to existing and new child care providers throughout the state AND THAT SUCH ACTIONS CONSTITUTE CRITICAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-802, **as added by House Bill 22-1295, add** (6) as follows:

26.5-3-802. Child care sustainability grant program - created - timeline and criteria - grant awards - funding - definitions. (6) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate to the department fifty million dollars from federal funds for child care development funds for the purposes of implementing the grant program. The money appropriated in this subsection (6) is not subject to the requirements of the "Procurement Code", articles 101 to 112 of title 24. Any money appropriated pursuant to this subsection (6) remains available for

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

EXPENDITURE UNTIL THE CLOSE OF THE 2023-24 STATE FISCAL YEAR.

- **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as added by House Bill 22-1295,** 26.5-3-803 (3) and (4)(c)(II); and **add** (1)(h.5) and (6) as follows:
- 26.5-3-803. Emerging and expanding child care grant program created timeline and criteria grant awards funding definitions repeal. (1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
- (h.5) "Grant recipient" means an eligible entity that receives a grant through the grant program.
- (3) (a) The department shall create a process for soliciting, vetting, awarding, and monitoring grants through statewide early childhood councils.
- (b) To the extent practicable, early childhood councils may receive up to twenty-five percent of funding in advance in order to effectively administer grant funds and maintain business operations. The department shall offer technical assistance to applicants with their applications and grant recipients with implementation of their awards. The technical assistance may be offered to all eligible entities, as defined in subsection (1) of this section, and family, friend, and neighbor providers, as defined in section 26.5-3-808. The department may also provide a grant recipient with a separate grant for technical assistance to implement the goals of the recipient's grant.
- (4) (c) In determining grant awards, the department shall consider eligible entities located in a child care desert. The department shall also consider eligible entities that have or are actively pursuing:
- (II) A commitment to engaging in quality improvement activities through the Colorado shines system, established in section 26.5-5-101; within eighteen months of receipt of their grant award;
- (6) (a) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate sixteen million dollars from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228 to the department for the purposes of implementing the grant program. Of this amount, up to two million two hundred thousand dollars shall be made available to early childhood councils, as defined in section 26.5-2-202, in support of the grant program. The department may reimburse an early childhood council up to ten percent of the grant amount for allowable administrative costs of the grant program.
- (b) Money spent pursuant to this subsection (6) must conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as amended. The department shall either spend or obligate such appropriation prior to December 30, 2024, and expend the appropriation on or before December 31, 2026.
  - (c) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLY WITH THE COMPLIANCE, REPORTING,

RECORD-KEEPING, AND PROGRAM EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING AND THE STATE CONTROLLER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 24-75-226 (5).

- (d) This subsection (6) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.
- **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend as added by House Bill 22-1295,** 26.5-3-804 (3) introductory portion, (8) introductory portion, and (9); and **add** (8.5) as follows:
- **26.5-3-804.** Employer-based child care facility grant program created timeline and criteria eligibility grant awards reports funding definitions repeal. (3) The department shall solicit and review grant applications from eligible entities beginning on or before June 30, 2021, AND EVERY JUNE 30 THEREAFTER THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024, and begin to award grants no later than September 1, 2021, AND EVERY SEPTEMBER 1 THEREAFTER THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2024. Each application must include, at a minimum:
- (8) On or before January 30, 2023, and on or before January 30, <del>2024</del> 2025, the department shall report progress on the grant program as part of its "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act" hearing required by section 2-7-203. At a minimum, the report must include:
- (8.5) (a) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate ten million dollars from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228 to the department for the purposes of implementing this section.
- (b) Money spent pursuant to this subsection (8.5) must conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as amended. The department shall either spend or obligate such appropriation prior to December 30, 2024, and expend the appropriation on or before December 31, 2026.
- (c) The department shall comply with the compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller in accordance with section 24-75-226 (5).
  - (d) This subsection (8.5) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.
  - (9) This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2024 SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.
- **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26.5-3-805, **as added by House Bill 22-1295, add** (7) as follows:
- 26.5-3-805. Early care and education recruitment and retention grant and scholarship program created criteria and eligibility grant and scholarship awards reports funding rules definitions repeal. (7) (a) FOR THE 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE FIFTEEN MILLION

DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM. THE MONEY APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7) IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE "PROCUREMENT CODE", ARTICLES 101 THROUGH 112 OF TITLE 24. FIVE MILLION DOLLARS MUST BE DEDICATED FOR HOME VISITING WORKFORCE, EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTANTS, AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROVIDERS.

- (b) Money spent pursuant to this subsection (7) must conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as amended. The department shall either spend or obligate such appropriation prior to December 30, 2024, and expend the appropriation on or before December 31, 2026.
- (c) The department shall comply with the compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller in accordance with section 24-75-226 (5).
  - (d) This subsection (7) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.

**SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **as article 3 is added by House Bill 22-1295, add** 26.5-3-808 as follows:

- **26.5-3-808.** Family, friend, and neighbor support programs advisory group training and support program funding definitions repeal. (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:
- (a) "ADVISORY GROUP" MEANS THE FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR ADVISORY GROUP CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.
- (b) "ELIGIBLE ENTITY" MEANS A FAMILY, FRIEND, AND NEIGHBOR PROVIDER THAT IS ACTIVELY PROVIDING INFORMAL, LICENSE-EXEMPT CHILD CARE.
- (c) "Family, friend, and neighbor" or "FFN" means license-exempt, informal child care provided by family, friends, or neighbors in an in-home setting on a regular basis pursuant to the requirements of 26.5-5-304 (1)(f).
- (d) "Training and support program" means the family, friend, and neighbor training and support program created in subsection (3) of this section.
- (2) (a) The family, friend, and neighbor advisory group is created in the department. The purpose of the advisory group is to advise the department on the needs of FFN providers and to make recommendations to the department on changes to regulations, policies, funding, and procedures that would benefit the FFN community. At least twenty-five percent of the members of the advisory group must reside in counties with a population below forty thousand people.

- (b) The department shall convene the advisory group, which must include, at a minimum:
- (I) Members of the FFN early childhood workforce and representatives of geographically and linguistically diverse FFN providers. To the extent practicable, the department shall ensure that the persons described in this subsection (2)(b)(I) constitute a majority of the members of the advisory group; and
- (II) PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE CARE THROUGH FFN PROVIDERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES, SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTORS, EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCILS, THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY, PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS, AND PERSONS WITH EXPERTISE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD AND BUSINESS PRACTICES.
- (c) Members of the advisory group may receive per diem compensation for attendance at meetings of the advisory group in the same amount paid to legislators pursuant to section 2-2-307 (3)(a). Members of the advisory group are also entitled to reimbursement for all actual and necessary travel and sustenance expenses directly related to their service on the advisory group.
- (3) (a) The family, friend, and neighbor training and support program is created in the department. The purpose of the training and support program is to support community-based organizations and nonprofit organizations that have expertise working with FFN providers to provide FFN providers with information, training, and materials, and to support FFN providers with skills and knowledge on child development, social and emotional development, and best practices and technical assistance to access existing state programs. Training programs available to eligible entities may include, but need not be limited to, the following:
  - (I) IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT;
  - (II) Ensuring the health and safety of child care environments;
  - (III) FOSTERING THE SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH OF THE CHILD;
- (IV) Supporting Children with Developmental, Emotional, Physical, or cognitive disabilities or Delays;
  - (V) OFFERING CULTURALLY COMPETENT AND EQUITABLE CHILD CARE;
  - (VI) STRENGTHENING THE BUSINESS PRACTICES OF CHILD CARE;
  - (VII) PROMOTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AND
- (VIII) PROVIDING A HIGH-QUALITY EARLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH COACHING, GUIDANCE, AND MATERIALS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS PER ELIGIBLE ENTITY.

- (b) Technical assistance and resources for FFN providers may include, but need not be limited to, the following:
  - (I) NAVIGATING THE STATE LICENSING AND QUALIFIED EXEMPT PROCESSES;
  - (II) ACCESSING EXISTING STATE FUNDING AND SERVICES;
  - (III) CONNECTING TO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS; AND
  - (IV) PROVIDING CAREER NAVIGATION ASSISTANCE.
- (c) The department may support FFN communities across the state to implement training programs that foster peer learning and provide locally specific support.
- (d) The department shall create and publish a public website for the FFN community to access training, technical assistance, and resources.
- (e) The department shall ensure that the training and support program is culturally competent and linguistically appropriate to meet the needs of the FFN community and utilizes a research- and community-informed curriculum.
- (4) Subject to available appropriations, the department shall make existing state programs available to the FFN community, including, but not limited to, home visitation, early intervention, early childhood mental health consultants, workforce recruitment and retention, and family resource center services.
- (5) (a) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate seven million five hundred thousand dollars from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228 to the department for the purposes of implementing this section.
- (b) Money spent pursuant to this subsection (5) must conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as amended. The department shall either spend or obligate such appropriation prior to December 30, 2024, and expend the appropriation on or before December 31, 2026.
- (c) The department shall comply with the compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller in accordance with section 24-75-226 (5).
  - (d) This subsection (5) is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.
- (6) The department shall report progress on the support programs as part of its "State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act" hearing required by section 2-7-203.

**SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **as article 3 is added by House Bill 22-1295, add** 26.5-3-904 as follows:

- 26.5-3-904. Home visiting grant program authorized requirements implementation partner rules definition repeal. (1) (a) For the 2022-23 STATE FISCAL YEAR, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL APPROPRIATE TO THE DEPARTMENT ONE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RELIEF CASH FUND CREATED IN SECTION 24-75-228 FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THE HOME VISITING GRANT PROGRAM. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "HOME VISITING" MEANS A VOLUNTARY, EVIDENCE-BASED, TWO-GENERATION, AND HOME-BASED PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM PRENATAL TO SIX YEARS OF AGE. THE HOME VISITING GRANT PROGRAM MUST SUPPORT SCHOOL READINESS, SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL GROWTH, AND AGE-APPROPRIATE CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND BE DELIVERED BY A TRAINED HOME VISITOR. THE HOME VISITING GRANT PROGRAM MUST BE PRIORITIZED TO EXPAND ACCESS TO POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNDERSERVED BY LANGUAGE, CULTURE, OR GEOGRAPHY.
- (b) Money spent pursuant to this subsection (1) must conform with the allowable purposes set forth in the federal "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021", Pub.L. 117-2, as amended. The department shall either spend or obligate such appropriation prior to December 30, 2024, and expend the appropriation on or before December 31, 2026.
- (c) The department shall comply with the compliance, reporting, record-keeping, and program evaluation requirements established by the office of state planning and budgeting and the state controller in accordance with section 24-75-226 (5).
  - (2) This section is repealed, effective September 1, 2027.
- **SECTION 8.** Appropriation. (1) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$49,500,000 is appropriated to the department of early childhood. This appropriation is from the economic recovery and relief cash fund created in section 24-75-228 (2)(a), C.R.S., is of money the state received from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund, and is based on an assumption that the department will require an additional 9.6 FTE. To implement this act, the department may use this appropriation for:
- (a) \$16,000,000 for use by the early learning access and quality division for the emerging and expanding child care grant program, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 3.5 FTE;
- (b) \$10,000,000 for use by the early learning access and quality division for the employer-based child care facility grant program, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.5 FTE;
- (c) \$15,000,000 for use by the early learning access and quality division for the early care and education recruitment and retention grant and scholarship program, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 2.5 FTE;
  - (d) \$7,500,000 for use by the early learning access and quality division for the

family, friend, and neighbor training and support program, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 2.8 FTE; and

- (e) \$1,000,000 for use by the community and family support division for the home visiting grant program, which amount is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 0.3 FTE.
- (2) Any money appropriated in subsection (1) not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to the department from July 1, 2023, through December 30, 2024, for the same purpose.
- (3) For the 2022-23 state fiscal year, \$50,000 000 is appropriated to the department of early childhood for use by the early learning access and quality division. This appropriation is from federal funds from child care development funds. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the child care sustainability grant program. Any money appropriated in this section not expended prior to July 1, 2023, is further appropriated to the department from July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, for the same purpose.

**SECTION 9.** Effective date. This act takes effect July 1, 2022.

**SECTION 10. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

Approved: June 3, 2022