

Appendix VI

Legislation Authorizing the Early Childhood Educator Professional Development Program and Evaluation Activities

Public Law 107-110, Title II, Part A, Subpart 5

SEC. 2151. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF DEMONSTRATED EFFECTIVENESS.

(e) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT-

(1) PURPOSE- The purpose of this subsection is to enhance the school readiness of young children, particularly disadvantaged young children, and to prevent young children from encountering difficulties once the children enter school, by improving the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators who work in communities that have high concentrations of children living in poverty.

(2) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED-

(A) GRANTS TO PARTNERSHIPS- The Secretary is authorized to carry out the purpose of this subsection by awarding grants, on a competitive basis, to partnerships consisting of —

(i)(I) one or more institutions of higher education that provide professional development for early childhood educators who work with children from low-income families in high-need communities; or

(II) another public or private entity that provides such professional development;

(ii) one or more public agencies (including local educational agencies, State educational agencies, State human services agencies, and State and local agencies administering programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.), Head Start agencies, or private organizations; and

(iii) to the extent feasible, an entity with demonstrated experience in providing training to educators in early childhood education programs concerning identifying and preventing behavior problems or working with children identified as or suspected to be victims of abuse.

(B) DURATION AND NUMBER OF GRANTS-

(i) DURATION- The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection for periods of not more than 4 years.

(ii) NUMBER- No partnership may receive more than one grant under this subsection.

(3) APPLICATIONS-

(A) APPLICATIONS REQUIRED- Any partnership that desires to receive a grant under this subsection shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(B) CONTENTS- Each such application shall include —

(i) a description of the high-need community to be served by the project proposed to be carried out through the grant, including such demographic and socioeconomic information as the Secretary may request;

(ii) information on the quality of the early childhood educator professional development program currently conducted (as of the date of the submission of the application) by the institution of higher education or another provider in the partnership;

(iii) the results of a needs assessment that the entities in the partnership have undertaken to determine the most critical professional development needs of the early childhood educators to be served by the partnership and in the broader community, and a description of how the proposed project will address those needs;

(iv) a description of how the proposed project will be carried out, including a description of —

(I) how individuals will be selected to participate;

(II) the types of professional development activities, based on scientifically based research, that will be carried out;

(III) how research on effective professional development and on adult learning will be used to design and deliver project activities;

(IV) how the project will be coordinated with and build on, and will not supplant or duplicate, early childhood education professional development activities in the high-need community;

(V) how the project will train early childhood educators to provide developmentally appropriate school-readiness services that are based on the best available research on early childhood pedagogy and child development and learning domains;

(VI) how the project will train early childhood educators to meet the diverse educational needs of children in the community, including children who have limited English proficiency, children with disabilities, or children with other special needs; and

(VII) how the project will train early childhood educators in identifying and preventing behavioral problems in children or working with children identified as or suspected to be victims of abuse;

(v) a description of —

(I) the specific objectives that the partnership will seek to attain through the project, and the methods that the partnership will use to measure progress toward attainment of those objectives; and

(II) how the objectives and the measurement methods align with the achievement indicators established by the Secretary under paragraph (6)(A);

(vi) a description of the partnership's plan for continuing the activities carried out under the project after Federal funding ceases;

(vii) an assurance that, where applicable, the project will provide appropriate professional development to volunteers working directly with young children, as well as to paid staff; and

(viii) an assurance that, in developing the application and in carrying out the project, the partnership has consulted with, and will consult with, relevant agencies, early childhood educator organizations, and early childhood providers that are not members of the partnership.

(4) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS-

(A) CRITERIA- The Secretary shall select partnerships to receive grants under this subsection on the basis of the degree to which the communities proposed to be served require assistance and the quality of the applications submitted under paragraph (3).

(B) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION- In selecting partnerships to receive grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall seek to ensure that communities in different regions of the Nation, as well as both urban and rural communities, are served.

(5) USES OF FUNDS-

(A) IN GENERAL- Each partnership receiving a grant under this subsection shall use the grant funds to carry out activities that will improve the knowledge and skills of early childhood educators who are working in early childhood programs that are located in high-need communities and serve concentrations of children from low-income families.

(B) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES- Such activities may include--

(i) professional development for early childhood educators, particularly to familiarize those educators with the application of recent research on child, language, and literacy development and on early childhood pedagogy;

(ii) professional development for early childhood educators in working with parents, so that the educators and parents can work together to provide and support developmentally appropriate school-readiness services that are based on scientifically based research on early childhood pedagogy and child development and learning domains;

(iii) professional development for early childhood educators to work with children who have limited English proficiency, children with disabilities, and children with other special needs;

(iv) professional development to train early childhood educators in identifying and preventing behavioral

problems in children or working with children identified as or suspected to be victims of abuse;
(v) activities that assist and support early childhood educators during their first 3 years in the field;
(vi) development and implementation of early childhood educator professional development programs that make use of distance learning and other technologies;
(vii) professional development activities related to the selection and use of screening and diagnostic assessments to improve teaching and learning; and
(viii) data collection, evaluation, and reporting needed to meet the requirements of paragraph (6) relating to accountability.

(6) ACCOUNTABILITY-

(A) ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS- On the date on which the Secretary first issues a notice soliciting applications for grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall announce achievement indicators for this subsection, which shall be designed--

- (i) to measure the quality and accessibility of the professional development provided;
- (ii) to measure the impact of that professional development on the early childhood education provided by the individuals who receive the professional development; and
- (iii) to provide such other measures of program impact as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(B) ANNUAL REPORTS; TERMINATION-

- (i) ANNUAL REPORTS- Each partnership receiving a grant under this subsection shall report annually to the Secretary on the partnership's progress toward attaining the achievement indicators.
- (ii) TERMINATION- The Secretary may terminate a grant under this subsection at any time if the Secretary determines that the partnership receiving the grant is not making satisfactory progress toward attaining the achievement indicators.

(7) COST-SHARING-

(A) IN GENERAL- Each partnership carrying out a project through a grant awarded under this subsection shall provide, from sources other than the program carried out under this subsection, which may include Federal sources--

- (i) at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project for the grant period; and
- (ii) at least 20 percent of the project cost for each year.

(B) ACCEPTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS- A partnership may meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) by providing contributions in cash or in kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, and services.

(C) WAIVERS- The Secretary may waive or modify the requirements of subparagraph (A) for partnerships in cases of demonstrated financial hardship.

(8) FEDERAL COORDINATION- The Secretary and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall coordinate activities carried out through programs under this subsection with activities carried out through other early childhood programs administered by the Secretary or the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(9) DEFINITIONS- In this subsection:

(A) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR- The term 'early childhood educator' means a person providing, or employed by a provider of, nonresidential child care services (including center-based, family-based, and in-home child care services) that is legally operating under State law, and that complies with applicable State and local requirements for the provision of child care services to children at any age from birth through the age at which a child may start kindergarten in that State.

(B) HIGH-NEED COMMUNITY-

(i) IN GENERAL- The term 'high-need community' means--

(I) a political subdivision of a State, or a portion of a political subdivision of a State, in which at least 50 percent of the children are from low-income families; or

(II) a political subdivision of a State that is among the 10 percent of political subdivisions of the State having the greatest numbers of such children.

(ii) DETERMINATION- In determining which communities are described in clause (i), the Secretary shall use such data as the Secretary determines are most accurate and appropriate.

(C) LOW-INCOME FAMILY- The term 'low-income family' means a family with an income below the poverty line for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available.

SEC. 9601. EVALUATIONS.

(a) RESERVATION OF FUNDS- Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary may reserve not more than 0.5 percent of the amount appropriated to carry out each categorical program and demonstration project authorized under this Act —

(1) to conduct —

(A) comprehensive evaluations of the program or project; and

(B) studies of the effectiveness of the program or project and its administrative impact on schools and local educational agencies;

(2) to evaluate the aggregate short- and long-term effects and cost efficiencies across Federal programs assisted or authorized under this Act and related Federal preschool, elementary, and secondary programs under any other Federal law; and

(3) to increase the usefulness of evaluations of grant recipients in order to ensure the continuous progress of the program or project by improving the quality, timeliness, efficiency, and use of information relating to performance under the program or project.

(b) TITLES I AND III EXCLUDED- The Secretary may not reserve under subsection (a) funds appropriated to carry out any program authorized under title I or title III.

(c) EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED ELSEWHERE- If, under any other provision of this Act (other than title I), funds are authorized to be reserved or used for evaluation activities with respect to a program or project, the Secretary may not reserve additional funds under this section for the evaluation of that program or project.'