

Legislation authorizing the work of the ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation

HEALTHY MARRIAGE AND RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

Sec. 403. [42 U.S.C. 603] (a) Grants.-

(2) Healthy marriage promotion and responsible fatherhood grants.-

(iii) Healthy marriage promotion activities

In clause (ii), the term "healthy marriage promotion activities" means the following:

(I) Public advertising campaigns on the value of marriage and the skills needed to increase marital stability and health.

(II) Education in high schools on the value of marriage, relationship skills, and budgeting.

(III) Marriage education, marriage skills, and relationship skills programs, that may include parenting skills, financial management, conflict resolution, and job and career advancement.

(IV) Pre-marital education and marriage skills training for engaged couples and for couples or individuals interested in marriage.

(V) Marriage enhancement and marriage skills training programs for married couples.

(VI) Divorce reduction programs that teach relationship skills.

(VII) Marriage mentoring programs which use married couples as role models and mentors in at-risk communities.

(VIII) Programs to reduce the disincentives to marriage in means-tested aid programs, if offered in conjunction with any activity described in this subparagraph.

(B) Limitation on use of funds for demonstration projects for coordination of provision of child welfare and TANF services to tribal families at risk of child abuse or neglect

(i) In general

Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (D) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may not award more than \$2,000,000 on a competitive basis to fund demonstration projects designed to test the effectiveness of tribal governments or tribal consortia in coordinating the provision to tribal families at risk of child abuse or neglect of child welfare services and services under tribal programs funded under this part.

(ii) Limitation on use of funds

A grant made pursuant to clause (i) to such a project shall not be used for any purpose other than—

(I) to improve case management for families eligible for assistance from such a tribal program;

(II) for supportive services and assistance to tribal children in out-of-home placements and the tribal families caring for such children, including families who adopt such children; and

(III) for prevention services and assistance to tribal families at risk of child abuse and neglect.

(iii) Reports

The Secretary may require a recipient of funds awarded under this subparagraph to provide the Secretary with such information as the Secretary deems relevant to enable the Secretary to facilitate and oversee the administration of any project for which funds are provided under this subparagraph.

(C) Limitation on use of funds for activities promoting responsible fatherhood

(i) In general

Of the amounts made available under subparagraph (D) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may not award more than \$75,000,000 on a competitive basis to States, territories, Indian tribes and tribal organizations, and public and nonprofit community entities, including religious organizations, for activities promoting responsible fatherhood.

(ii) Activities promoting responsible fatherhood

In this paragraph, the term "activities promoting responsible fatherhood" means the following:

(I) Activities to promote marriage or sustain marriage through activities such as counseling, mentoring, disseminating information about the benefits of marriage and 2-parent involvement for children, enhancing relationship skills, education regarding how to control aggressive behavior, disseminating information on the causes of domestic violence and child abuse, marriage preparation programs, premarital counseling, marital inventories, skills-based marriage education, financial planning seminars, including improving a family's ability to effectively manage family business affairs by means such as education, counseling, or mentoring on matters related to family finances, including household management, budgeting, banking, and handling of financial transactions and home maintenance, and divorce education and reduction programs, including mediation and counseling.

(II) Activities to promote responsible parenting through activities such as counseling, mentoring, and mediation, disseminating information about good parenting practices, skills-based parenting education, encouraging child support payments, and other methods.

(III) Activities to foster economic stability by helping fathers improve their economic status by providing activities such as work first services, job search, job training, subsidized employment, job retention, job enhancement, and encouraging education, including career-advancing education, dissemination of employment materials, coordination with existing employment services such as welfare-to-work programs, referrals to local employment training initiatives, and other methods.

(IV) Activities to promote responsible fatherhood that are conducted through a contract with a nationally recognized, nonprofit fatherhood promotion organization, such as the development, promotion, and distribution of a media campaign to encourage the appropriate involvement of parents in the life of any child and specifically the issue of responsible fatherhood, and the development of a national clearinghouse to assist States and communities in efforts to promote and support marriage and responsible fatherhood.

(D) Appropriation

Out of any money in the Treasury of the United States not otherwise appropriated, there are appropriated for each of fiscal years 2017 and 2018 for expenditure in accordance with this paragraph—

(i) \$75,000,000 for awarding funds for the purpose of carrying out healthy marriage promotion activities; and

(ii) \$75,000,000 for awarding funds for the purpose of carrying out activities promoting responsible fatherhood.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION

Sec. 513. [42 U.S.C. 713] Allotments to States.

(a) ALLOTMENTS TO STATES

(1) AMOUNT

(A) In general

For the purpose described in subsection (b), subject to the succeeding provisions of this section, for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2020 and for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending December 18, 2020, the [Secretary](#) shall allot to each State an amount equal to the product of—

(i) the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year or period and available for allotments to States after the application of subsection (c); and

(ii) the State [youth](#) population percentage determined under paragraph (2).

(B) Minimum allotment

(i) In general

Each State allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be at least \$250,000. The previous sentence shall not apply with respect to State allotments under this paragraph for the period beginning October 1, 2020 and ending December 18, 2020.

(ii) Pro rata adjustments

The [Secretary](#) shall adjust on a pro rata basis the amount of the State allotments determined under this paragraph for a fiscal year to the extent necessary to comply with clause (i).

(C) Application required to access allotments**(i) In general**

A State shall not be paid from its allotment for a fiscal year or the period described in subparagraph (A) unless the State submits an application to the [Secretary](#) for the fiscal year or period and the [Secretary](#) approves the application (or requires changes to the application that the State satisfies) and meets such additional requirements as the [Secretary](#) may specify.

(ii) Requirements

The State application shall contain an assurance that the State has complied with the requirements of this section in preparing and submitting the application and shall include the following as well as such additional information as the [Secretary](#) may require:

- (I) Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics, the most recent pregnancy rates for the State for [youth](#) ages 10 to 14 and [youth](#) ages 15 to 19 for which data are available, the most recent birth rates for such [youth](#) populations in the State for which data are available, and trends in those rates for the most recently preceding 5-year period for which such data are available.
- (II) State-established goals for reducing the pregnancy rates and birth rates for such [youth](#) populations.
- (III) A description of the State's plan for using the State allotments provided under this section to achieve such goals, especially among [youth](#) populations that are the most high-risk or vulnerable for pregnancies or otherwise have special circumstances, including [youth](#) in foster care, homeless [youth](#), [youth](#) with HIV/AIDS, pregnant [youth](#) who are under 21 years of age, mothers who are under 21 years of age, and [youth](#) residing in areas with high birth rates for [youth](#).

(2) STATE YOUTH POPULATION PERCENTAGE**(A) In general**

For purposes of paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the State [youth](#) population percentage is, with respect to a State, the proportion (expressed as a percentage) of—

- (i) the number of individuals who have attained age 10 but not attained age 20 in the State; to
- (ii) the number of such individuals in all States.

(B) Determination of number of youth

The number of individuals described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) in a State shall be determined on the basis of the most recent Bureau of the Census data.

(3) AVAILABILITY OF STATE ALLOTMENTS

Subject to paragraph (4)(A), amounts allotted to a State pursuant to this subsection for a fiscal year or the period described in paragraph (1)(A) shall remain available for expenditure by the State through the end of the second fiscal year following such fiscal year or period.

(4) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS FROM STATE ALLOTMENTS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES IN NONPARTICIPATING STATES**(A) Grants from unexpended allotments**

If a State does not submit an application under this section for fiscal year 2010 or 2011, the State shall no longer be eligible to submit an application to receive funds from the amounts allotted for the State for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2020 and for the period described in paragraph (1)(A) and such amounts shall be used by the [Secretary](#) to award grants under this paragraph for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2020 and for the period so described. The [Secretary](#) also shall use any amounts from the allotments of States that submit applications under this section for a fiscal year or the period so described that remain unexpended as of the end of the period in which the allotments are available for expenditure under paragraph (3) for awarding grants under this paragraph.

(B) Competitive prep grants**(i) In general**

The [Secretary](#) shall continue through the period described in paragraph (1)(A) grants awarded for any of fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to local organizations and entities to conduct, consistent with subsection (b), programs and activities in States that do not submit an application for an allotment under this section for fiscal year 2010 or 2011.

(ii) Faith-based organizations or consortia

The [Secretary](#) may solicit and award grants under this paragraph to faith-based organizations or consortia.

(C) Evaluation

An organization or entity awarded a grant under this paragraph shall agree to participate in a rigorous Federal evaluation.

(5) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT

No payment shall be made to a State from the allotment determined for the State under this subsection or to a local organization or entity awarded a grant under paragraph (4), if the expenditure of non-federal funds by the State, organization, or entity for activities, programs, or initiatives for which amounts from allotments and grants under this subsection may be expended is less than the amount expended by the State, organization, or entity for such programs or initiatives for fiscal year 2009.

(6) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

A State or local organization or entity receiving funds under this section shall cooperate with such requirements relating to the collection of data and information and reporting on outcomes regarding the programs and activities carried out with such funds, as the [Secretary](#) shall specify.

(b) PURPOSE**(1) IN GENERAL**

The purpose of an allotment under subsection (a)(1) to a State is to enable the State (or, in the case of grants made under subsection (a)(4)(B), to enable a local organization or entity) to carry out [personal responsibility education programs](#) consistent with this subsection.

(2) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

(A) In general

In this section, the term “[personal responsibility education program](#)” means a program that is designed to educate adolescents on—

- (i) both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B); and
- (ii) at least 3 of the adulthood preparation subjects described in subparagraph (C).

(B) Requirements

The requirements of this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) The program replicates evidence-based effective programs or substantially incorporates elements of effective programs that have been proven on the basis of rigorous scientific research to change behavior, which means delaying sexual activity, increasing condom or contraceptive use for sexually active [youth](#), or reducing pregnancy among [youth](#).
- (ii) The program is medically-accurate and complete.
- (iii) The program includes activities to educate [youth](#) who are sexually active regarding responsible sexual behavior with respect to both abstinence and the use of contraception.
- (iv) The program places substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy among [youth](#) and sexually transmitted infections.
- (v) The program provides [age-appropriate](#) information and activities.
- (vi) The information and activities carried out under the program are provided in the cultural context that is most appropriate for individuals in the particular population group to which they are directed.

(C) Adulthood preparation subjects

The adulthood preparation subjects described in this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) Healthy relationships, including marriage and family interactions.
- (ii) Adolescent development, such as the development of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects.
- (iii) Financial literacy.
- (iv) Parent-child communication.

(v) Educational and career success, such as developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity.

(vi) Healthy life skills, such as goal-setting, decision making, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management.

(c) RESERVATIONS OF FUNDS

(1) GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

Subject to paragraph (3), from the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year, the [Secretary](#) shall reserve \$10,000,000 of such amount for purposes of awarding grants to entities to implement innovative [youth](#) pregnancy prevention strategies and target services to high-risk, vulnerable, and culturally under-represented [youth](#) populations, including [youth](#) in foster care, homeless [youth](#), [youth](#) with HIV/AIDS, victims of human trafficking, pregnant women who are under 21 years of age and their partners, mothers who are under 21 years of age and their partners, and [youth](#) residing in areas with high birth rates for [youth](#). An entity awarded a grant under this paragraph shall agree to participate in a rigorous Federal evaluation of the activities carried out with grant funds.

(2) OTHER RESERVATIONS

Subject to paragraph (3), from the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year that remains after the application of paragraph (1), the [Secretary](#) shall reserve the following amounts:

(A) Grants for Indian tribes or tribal organizations

The [Secretary](#) shall reserve 5 percent of such remainder for purposes of awarding grants to [Indian tribes](#) and [tribal organizations](#) in such manner, and subject to such requirements, as the [Secretary](#), in consultation with [Indian tribes](#) and [tribal organizations](#), determines appropriate.

(B) Secretarial responsibilities

(i) Reservation of funds

The [Secretary](#) shall reserve 10 percent of such remainder for expenditures by the [Secretary](#) for the activities described in clauses (ii) and (iii).

(ii) Program support

The [Secretary](#) shall provide, directly or through a competitive grant process, research, training and technical assistance, including dissemination of research and information regarding effective and promising practices, providing consultation and resources on a broad array of teen pregnancy prevention strategies, including abstinence and contraception, and developing resources and materials to support the activities of recipients of grants and other State, tribal, and community organizations working to reduce teen pregnancy. In carrying out such functions, the [Secretary](#) shall collaborate with a variety of entities that have expertise in the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, healthy relationships, financial literacy, and other topics addressed through the [personal responsibility education programs](#).

(iii) Evaluation

The [Secretary](#) shall evaluate the programs and activities carried out with funds made available through allotments or grants under this section.

(3) EXCEPTION

Paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply with respect to any amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the period described in subsection (a)(1)(A).

(d) ADMINISTRATION

(1) IN GENERAL

The [Secretary](#) shall administer this section through the Assistant [Secretary](#) for the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF SUBCHAPTER

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the other provisions of this subchapter shall not apply to allotments or grants made under this section.

(B) Exceptions

The following provisions of this subchapter shall apply to allotments and grants made under this section to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to allotments made under [section 702\(c\) of this title](#):

- (i) [Section 704\(b\)\(6\) of this title](#) (relating to prohibition on payments to excluded individuals and entities).
- (ii) [Section 704\(c\) of this title](#) (relating to the use of funds for the purchase of technical assistance).
- (iii) [Section 704\(d\) of this title](#) (relating to a limitation on administrative expenditures).
- (iv) [Section 706 of this title](#) (relating to reports and audits), but only to the extent determined by the [Secretary](#) to be appropriate for grants made under this section.
- (v) [Section 707 of this title](#) (relating to penalties for false statements).
- (vi) [Section 708 of this title](#) (relating to nondiscrimination).

(e) DEFINITIONS

In this section:

(1) AGE-APPROPRIATE

The term “[age-appropriate](#)”, with respect to the information in pregnancy prevention, means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

(2) MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPLETE

The term “[medically accurate and complete](#)” means verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and—

(A) published in peer-reviewed journals, where applicable; or

(B) comprising information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

(3) INDIAN TRIBES; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

The terms “[Indian tribe](#)” and “[Tribal organization](#)” have the meanings given such terms in [section 1603 of title 25](#).

(3) YOUTH

The term “[youth](#)” means an individual who has attained age 10 but has not attained age 20.

(f) APPROPRIATION

For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2020, and for the period beginning on October 1, 2020, and ending on December 18, 2020, the amount equal to the pro rata portion of the amount appropriated for such period for fiscal year 2020. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title V, § 513, as added and amended [Pub. L. 111-148, title II, § 2953](#), title X, § 10201(h), Mar. 23, 2010, [124 Stat. 347](#), 922; [Pub. L. 113-93, title II, § 206](#), Apr. 1, 2014, [128 Stat. 1046](#); [Pub. L. 114-10, title II, § 215](#), Apr. 16, 2015, [129 Stat. 153](#); [Pub. L. 115-123, div. E, title V, § 50503\(a\)](#), Feb. 9, 2018, [132 Stat. 227](#); [Pub. L. 116-59, div. B, title II, § 1202](#), Sept. 27, 2019, [133 Stat. 1104](#); [Pub. L. 116-69, div. B, title II, § 1202](#), Nov. 21, 2019, [133 Stat. 1137](#); [Pub. L. 116-94, div. N, title I, § 304](#), Dec. 20, 2019, [133 Stat. 3113](#); [Pub. L. 116-136, div. A, title III, § 3822](#), Mar. 27, 2020, [134 Stat. 432](#); [Pub. L. 116-159, div. C, title I, § 2103](#), Oct. 1, 2020, [134 Stat. 729](#); [Pub. L. 116-215, div. B, title II, § 1203\(b\)](#), Dec. 11, 2020, [134 Stat. 1045](#).)