

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2412

To expand Parents as Teachers programs and other programs of early childhood home visitation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 12, 2004

Mr. BOND (for himself and Mr. TALENT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To expand Parents as Teachers programs and other programs of early childhood home visitation, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Education Begins at
5 Home Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the home is the first and most important
2 learning environment for children, and parents are
3 their children's first and most influential teacher;

4 (2) through parent education and family sup-
5 port, we can promote parents' ability to enhance
6 their children's development from birth until entry
7 into kindergarten thereby helping parents to prepare
8 their children for success in school;

9 (3) undiagnosed and unaddressed develop-
10 mental and health problems can impede overall child
11 development and school readiness;

12 (4) all parents deserve and can benefit from—

13 (A) research-based information regarding
14 child development;

15 (B) enrichment opportunities with their
16 children; and

17 (C) early opportunities to become involved
18 with their community and schools; and

19 (5) early childhood home visitation leads to
20 positive outcomes for children and families, including
21 readiness for school, improved child health and de-
22 velopment, positive parenting practices, and reduc-
23 tions in child maltreatment.

24 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

25 The purposes of this Act are as follows:

1 (1) To enable States to deliver services under
 2 Parents as Teachers programs, or other programs of
 3 early childhood home visitation, to pregnant women
 4 and parents of children from birth until entry into
 5 kindergarten in order to promote parents’ ability to
 6 support their children’s optimal cognitive, language,
 7 social-emotional, and physical development.

8 (2) To improve Early Head Start programs car-
 9 ried out under section 645A of the Head Start Act
 10 (42 U.S.C. 9840a).

11 (3) To expand Parents as Teachers programs,
 12 or other programs of early childhood home visita-
 13 tion, so as to more effectively reach and serve fami-
 14 lies with English language learners.

15 (4) To expand Parents as Teachers programs,
 16 or other programs of early childhood home visita-
 17 tion, so as to more effectively reach and serve fami-
 18 lies serving in the military.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) **ELIGIBLE FAMILY.**—The term “eligible
 22 family” means—

23 (A) a woman who is pregnant; or

1 (B) a parent or primary caregiver of a
 2 child who is from birth until entry into kinder-
 3 garten.

4 (2) HOME VISITATION.—The term “home visi-
 5 tation” means services provided in the permanent or
 6 temporary residence, or in other familiar sur-
 7 roundings, of the individual receiving such services.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—Except as provided in section
 9 8, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of
 10 Health and Human Services.

11 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
 12 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
 13 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

14 **SEC. 5. STATE GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISI-**
 15 **TATION.**

16 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in collabora-
 17 tion with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants
 18 to States to enable such States to establish or expand Par-
 19 ents as Teachers programs, or other programs of early
 20 childhood home visitation, as specified under subsection
 21 (f). Each grant shall consist of the allotment determined
 22 for a State under subsection (b).

23 (b) DETERMINATION OF RESERVATIONS; AMOUNT OF
 24 ALLOTMENTS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) RESERVATIONS FROM APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 From the total amount made available to carry out
3 this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall re-
4 serve—

5 (A) 3 percent for an independent evalua-
6 tion of the activities carried out under this Act,
7 as specified in section 9;

8 (B) not more than 5 percent for Federal
9 administrative costs; and

10 (C) 2 percent for training and technical as-
11 sistance for States.

12 (2) STATE ALLOTMENTS FOR EARLY CHILD-
13 HOOD HOME VISITATION.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with
15 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allot
16 among each of the States the total amount
17 made available to carry out this section for any
18 fiscal year and not reserved under paragraph
19 (1), to carry out early childhood home visitation
20 in accordance with this section.

21 (B) DETERMINATION OF STATE ALLOT-
22 MENTS.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
24 (ii), the Secretary shall allot the amount
25 made available under subparagraph (A) for

1 a fiscal year among the States in propor-
 2 tion to the number of children, aged from
 3 birth to 5 years, who reside within the
 4 State, compared to the number of such in-
 5 dividuals who reside in all such States for
 6 that fiscal year.

7 (ii) EXCEPTION.—No State receiving
 8 an allotment under clause (i) may receive
 9 more than \$20,000,000.

10 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 12 this section \$400,000,000 for the period of fiscal
 13 years 2005 through 2007.

14 (c) STATE GRANT APPLICATIONS.—A State that de-

15 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
 16 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
 17 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
 18 quire. The application shall contain the following informa-
 19 tion:

20 (1) An assurance that the Governor of the

21 State has designated a lead State agency, such as
 22 the State educational agency or the State health and
 23 human services agency, to carry out the activities
 24 under this section.

1 (2) An assurance that the State will, if re-
2 requested, participate in the independent evaluation
3 under section 9.

4 (3) An assurance that the State will reserve 10
5 percent of the grant funds for training and technical
6 assistance of staff of programs of early childhood
7 home visitation.

8 (4) The results of a statewide needs assessment
9 that describes—

10 (A) the quality and capacity of existing
11 programs of early childhood home visitation in
12 the State;

13 (B) the number and types of eligible fami-
14 lies who are receiving services under such pro-
15 grams; and

16 (C) the gaps in early childhood home visi-
17 tation in the State.

18 (5) A State plan containing the following:

19 (A) A description of the State's strategy to
20 establish or expand Parents as Teachers pro-
21 grams, or other programs of early childhood
22 home visitation, to serve all eligible families in
23 the State.

24 (B) A description of the Parents as Teach-
25 ers programs, or other programs of early child-

1 hood home visitation, that will be supported by
2 a grant under this section.

3 (C) A description of how the proposed pro-
4 gram of early childhood home visitation will
5 promote positive parenting skills and children's
6 early learning and development.

7 (D) A description of how the proposed pro-
8 gram of early childhood home visitation will in-
9 corporate the authorized activities described in
10 subsection (f).

11 (E) How the lead State agency will build
12 on and promote coordination among existing
13 programs of early childhood home visitation in
14 an effort to promote an array of home visitation
15 that ensures more eligible families are being
16 served and are getting the most appropriate
17 services to meet their needs.

18 (F) How the lead State agency will pro-
19 mote channels of communication between staff
20 of programs of early childhood home visitation
21 and staff of other early childhood education
22 programs, such as Head Start programs carried
23 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
24 et seq.) and Early Head Start programs carried
25 out under section 645A of such Act, preschool

1 programs, and child care programs, to facilitate
 2 the coordination of services for eligible families.

3 (G) How the lead State agency will provide
 4 training and technical assistance to staff of pro-
 5 grams of early childhood home visitation in-
 6 volved in activities under this section to more
 7 effectively meet the needs of the eligible families
 8 served.

9 (H) How the lead State agency will evalu-
 10 ate the activities supported under this section in
 11 order to demonstrate outcomes related to the
 12 enhancement of—

13 (i) parent knowledge of early learning
 14 and development;

15 (ii) positive parenting practices re-
 16 lated to early learning and development;
 17 and

18 (iii) children’s cognitive, language, so-
 19 cial-emotional, and physical development.

20 (I) Such other information as the Sec-
 21 retary may require.

22 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve
 24 an application under this section based on the qual-

1 ity of the application and the recommendations of a
2 peer review panel, as described in paragraph (2).

3 (2) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—The peer review
4 panel shall include not less than—

5 (A) 3 individuals who are experts in the
6 field of home visitation;

7 (B) 2 individuals who are experts in early
8 childhood development; and

9 (C) 1 individual with experience imple-
10 menting a statewide program of early childhood
11 home visitation.

12 (e) DURATION OF GRANTS.—Grants made under this
13 section shall be for a period of no more than 3 years.

14 (f) STATE USES OF FUNDS.—Each State that re-
15 ceives a grant under this section shall—

16 (1) provide to eligible families voluntary early
17 childhood home visitation, on not less frequently
18 than a monthly basis with greater frequency of serv-
19 ices for those eligible families identified with addi-
20 tional needs, through the implementation of Parents
21 as Teachers programs, or other programs of early
22 childhood home visitation, that provides parents
23 with—

1 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
 2 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
 3 tional, and motor domains;

4 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
 5 age-appropriate child behaviors;

6 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
 7 issues for children and parents;

8 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
 9 parenting practices;

10 (E) skills to interact with their child to en-
 11 hance age-appropriate development;

12 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 13 health issues and developmental delays; and

14 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
 15 come full partners in the education of their chil-
 16 dren;

17 (2) offer annual health, vision, hearing, and de-
 18 velopmental screening for children from birth until
 19 entry into kindergarten;

20 (3) provide referrals for eligible families, as
 21 needed, to additional resources available in the com-
 22 munity, such as center-based early education pro-
 23 grams, child care services, health or mental health
 24 services, family literacy programs, employment agen-
 25 cies, and social services;

1 (4) offer group meetings, on not less frequently
2 than a monthly basis, for eligible families that—

3 (A) further enhance the information, ac-
4 tivities, and skill-building addressed during
5 home visitation; and

6 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
7 with and support each other;

8 (5) reserve 10 percent of the grant funds to
9 provide training and technical assistance, directly or
10 through contract, to early childhood home visitation
11 and early childhood care and education staff relating
12 to—

13 (A) effective methods of conducting parent
14 education, home visiting, and promoting quality
15 early childhood development;

16 (B) the relationship of health and well-
17 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
18 childhood development;

19 (C) early childhood development with re-
20 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
21 dergarten;

22 (D) methods to help parents promote
23 emergent literacy in their children from birth
24 until entry into kindergarten;

1 (E) health, vision, hearing, and develop-
2 mental screenings;

3 (F) strategies for helping eligible families
4 with special needs or those eligible families cop-
5 ing with crisis;

6 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
7 qualified staff;

8 (H) increasing services for underserved
9 populations;

10 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
11 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
12 and

13 (J) implementation of ongoing program
14 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
15 and outcomes;

16 (6) ensure coordination of programs of early
17 childhood home visitation, early childhood education
18 and care, and early intervention, through an existing
19 or created State-level early childhood coordinating
20 body that includes—

21 (A) representatives from relevant State
22 agencies;

23 (B) representatives from State Head Start
24 Associations;

1 (C) the State official with responsibility for
2 carrying out activities under part C of the Indi-
3 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
4 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

5 (D) the State official with responsibility
6 for carrying out activities under section 619 of
7 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
8 (20 U.S.C. 1419);

9 (E) representatives from child care re-
10 source and referral State offices;

11 (F) representatives from Parents as
12 Teachers State affiliate offices;

13 (G) representatives from other programs of
14 early childhood home visitation; and

15 (7) not expend more than 10 percent of the
16 amount of grant funds received under this section
17 for the administration of the grant, including plan-
18 ning, administration, evaluation, and annual report-
19 ing.

20 (g) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State is entitled
21 to receive its full allotment of funds under this section for
22 any fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the aggregate
23 expenditures within the State for Parents as Teachers pro-
24 grams, or other programs of early childhood home visita-
25 tion, for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which

1 the determination is made was not less than 100 percent
2 of such aggregate expenditures for the second fiscal year
3 preceding the fiscal year for which the determination is
4 made.

5 (h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State that
6 receives a grant under this section shall submit an annual
7 report to the Secretary regarding the State’s progress in
8 addressing the purposes of this Act. Such report shall in-
9 clude, at a minimum, a description of—

10 (1) the types of activities funded under the
11 grant;

12 (2) the children and eligible families served by
13 the programs funded under the grant;

14 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
15 and activities being used in the activities funded
16 under the grant;

17 (4) the effectiveness of the training and ongoing
18 professional development provided—

19 (A) to staff supported under the grant;
20 and

21 (B) to the broader early childhood commu-
22 nity; and

23 (5) beginning at the end of the second year of
24 the grant, the results of evaluations described in
25 subsection (c)(4)(G).

1 **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING EARLY HEAD START HOME VISI-**
 2 **TATION.**

3 Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
 4 9840a) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b)—

6 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “provide
 7 services to parents to support their role as par-
 8 ents” and inserting “provide additional services
 9 to parents to support their role as parents (in-
 10 cluding parenting skills training and training in
 11 basic child development)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (5)—

13 (i) by inserting “(including home-
 14 based services)” after “with services”; and

15 (ii) by inserting “, and family support
 16 services” after “health services”;

17 (C) by redesignating paragraphs (7), (8),
 18 and (9) as paragraphs (9), (10), and (11), re-
 19 spectively; and

20 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
 21 following:

22 “(7) develop and implement a systematic proce-
 23 dure for transitioning children and parents from an
 24 Early Head Start program into a Head Start pro-
 25 gram or another local early childhood education pro-
 26 gram;

1 “(8) establish channels of communication be-
 2 tween staff of Early Head Start programs and staff
 3 of Head Start programs or other local early child-
 4 hood education programs, to facilitate the coordina-
 5 tion of programs;”;

6 (2) in subsection (g)(2)(B), by striking clause
 7 (iv) and inserting the following:

8 “(iv) providing professional develop-
 9 ment and personnel enhancement activi-
 10 ties, including the provision of funds to re-
 11 cipients of grants under subsection (a), re-
 12 lating to effective methods of conducting
 13 parent education, home visiting, and pro-
 14 moting quality early childhood develop-
 15 ment.”; and

16 (3) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

18 “(1) HOME VISITOR STAFF.—

19 “(A) STANDARDS.—In order to further en-
 20 hance the quality of home visiting services pro-
 21 vided to families of children participating in
 22 home-based, center-based, or combination pro-
 23 gram options under this subchapter, the Sec-
 24 retary shall establish standards for training,
 25 qualifications, and the conduct of home visits

1 for home visitor staff in Early Head Start pro-
 2 grams.

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—The standards for
 4 training, qualifications, and the conduct of
 5 home visits shall include content related to—

6 “(i) structured child-focused home vis-
 7 iting that promotes parents’ ability to sup-
 8 port the child’s cognitive, social, emotional,
 9 and physical development;

10 “(ii) effective strengths-based parent
 11 education, including methods to encourage
 12 parents as their child’s first teachers;

13 “(iii) early childhood development
 14 with respect to children from birth through
 15 age 3;

16 “(iv) methods to help parents promote
 17 emergent literacy in their children from
 18 birth through age 3;

19 “(v) health, vision, hearing, and devel-
 20 opmental screenings;

21 “(vi) strategies for helping families
 22 coping with crisis; and

23 “(vii) the relationship of health and
 24 well-being of pregnant women to prenatal
 25 and early child development.”.

1 **SEC. 7. TARGETED GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME**
 2 **VISITATION FOR FAMILIES WITH ENGLISH**
 3 **LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration
 5 with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants, on
 6 a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to enable such
 7 applicants to support and expand local efforts to deliver
 8 services under the Parents as Teachers programs, or other
 9 programs of early childhood home visitation, to eligible
 10 families with English language learners.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—In this section, the term
 12 “eligible applicant” means—

13 (1) 1 or more local educational agencies (as de-
 14 fined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 15 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));
 16 and

17 (2) 1 or more public or private community-
 18 based organizations or agencies that serve eligible
 19 families and are capable of establishing and imple-
 20 menting programs of early childhood home visita-
 21 tion.

22 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible applicant that de-
 23 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
 24 application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
 25 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
 26 quire. The application shall include a description of—

1 (1) the results of a communitywide needs as-
2 assessment that describes—

3 (A) community demographics dem-
4 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
5 eligible families with English language learners;

6 (B) the quality, capacity, and existing pro-
7 grams of early childhood home visitation for eli-
8 gible families with English language learners;

9 (C) the gaps in programs of early child-
10 hood home visitation for eligible families with
11 English language learners; and

12 (D) the type of program of early childhood
13 home visitation necessary to address the gaps
14 identified;

15 (2) the program of early childhood home visita-
16 tion that will be supported by the grant under this
17 section;

18 (3) how the proposed program of early child-
19 hood home visitation will promote positive parenting
20 skills and children’s early learning and development;

21 (4) how the proposed program of early child-
22 hood home visitation will incorporate the authorized
23 activities described in subsection (f);

24 (5) how services provided through a grant
25 under this section will use materials that are geared

1 toward eligible families with English language learn-
2 ers;

3 (6) how the activities under this section will be
4 coordinated with existing programs of early child-
5 hood home visitation, if such programs exist in the
6 community, in an effort to promote an array of
7 home visitation that ensures more eligible families
8 with English language learners are being served and
9 are getting the most appropriate services to meet
10 their needs;

11 (7) how the program will ensure that—

12 (A) eligible families with English language
13 learners are linked to schools; and

14 (B) the activities under this section will
15 support the preparation of children for school;

16 (8) how channels of communication will be es-
17 tablished between staff of programs of early child-
18 hood home visitation and staff of other early child-
19 hood education programs, such as Head Start pro-
20 grams carried out under the Head Start Act (42
21 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and Early Head Start pro-
22 grams carried out under section 645A of such Act,
23 preschool programs, and child care programs, to fa-
24 cilitate the coordination of services for eligible fami-
25 lies with English language learners;

1 (9) how eligible families with English language
2 learners will be recruited and retained to receive
3 services under this section;

4 (10) how training and technical assistance will
5 help the staff of programs of early childhood home
6 visitation involved in activities under this section to
7 more effectively serve eligible families with English
8 language learners;

9 (11) how the eligible applicant will evaluate the
10 activities supported under this section in order to
11 demonstrate outcomes related to the—

12 (A) increase in number of eligible families
13 with English language learners served by pro-
14 grams of early childhood home visitation;

15 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
16 knowledge of early learning and development;

17 (C) enhancement of positive parenting
18 practices related to early learning and develop-
19 ment; and

20 (D) enhancement of children's cognitive,
21 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
22 opment; and

23 (12) such other information as the Secretary
24 may require.

25 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select
2 applicants for funding under this section based on
3 the quality of the applications and the recommenda-
4 tions of a peer review panel, as described in para-
5 graph (2).

6 (2) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—The peer review
7 panel shall include not less than—

8 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
9 field of home visitation;

10 (B) 2 individuals who are experts in early
11 childhood development; and

12 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in serv-
13 ing eligible families with English language
14 learners.

15 (e) DURATION OF GRANTS.—Grants made under this
16 section shall be for a period of no more than 3 years.

17 (f) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible appli-
18 cant that receives a grant under this section shall carry
19 out the following activities:

20 (1) Providing to eligible families with English
21 language learners voluntary early childhood home
22 visitation, on not less frequently than a monthly
23 basis, through the implementation of Parents as
24 Teachers programs, or other programs of early

1 childhood home visitation, that provides parents
2 with—

3 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
4 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
5 tional, and motor domains;

6 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
7 age-appropriate child behaviors;

8 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
9 issues for children and parents;

10 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
11 parenting practices;

12 (E) skills to interact with their child to en-
13 hance age-appropriate development;

14 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
15 health issues and developmental delays; and

16 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
17 come full partners in the education of their chil-
18 dren.

19 (2) Conducting annual health, vision, hearing,
20 and developmental screening for participating chil-
21 dren who are English language learners.

22 (3) Providing referrals for participating eligible
23 families with English language learners, as needed,
24 to additional resources available in the community,
25 such as center-based early education programs, child

1 care services, health or mental health services, family
2 literacy programs, employment agencies, and social
3 services.

4 (4) Offering group meetings, on not less fre-
5 quently than a monthly basis, for eligible families
6 with English language learners that—

7 (A) further enhance the information, ac-
8 tivities, and skill-building addressed during
9 home visitation;

10 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
11 with and support each other; and

12 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
13 lies with English language learners.

14 (5) Providing training and technical assistance
15 to early childhood home visitation and early child-
16 hood care and education staff relating to—

17 (A) effective service to eligible families
18 with English language learners;

19 (B) effective methods of conducting parent
20 education, home visiting, and promoting quality
21 early childhood development;

22 (C) the relationship of health and well-
23 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
24 child development;

1 (D) early childhood development with re-
 2 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
 3 dergarten;

4 (E) methods to help parents promote
 5 emergent literacy in their children from birth
 6 until entry into kindergarten;

7 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
 8 gible families with English language learners
 9 coping with a crisis;

10 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
 11 qualified staff;

12 (H) increasing services for underserved eli-
 13 gible families with English language learners;

14 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
 15 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
 16 and

17 (J) implementation of ongoing program
 18 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
 19 and outcomes.

20 (6) Coordinating existing programs of early
 21 childhood home visitation in order to effectively and
 22 efficiently meet the needs of more eligible families
 23 with English language learners.

24 (g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
 25 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,

1 and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available
 2 for carrying out the activities described in this section.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 4 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 5 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2005 through
 6 2007.

7 **SEC. 8. TARGETED GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME**
 8 **VISITATION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in col-
 10 laboration with the Secretary of Education, shall make
 11 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to en-
 12 able such applicants to support and expand efforts to de-
 13 liver services under the Parents as Teachers programs, or
 14 other programs of early childhood home visitation, to eligi-
 15 ble families with a family member in the Armed Forces.

16 (b) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—In this section, the term
 17 “eligible applicant” means any of the following:

18 (1) A local educational agency that receives
 19 payments under title VIII of the Elementary and
 20 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7701
 21 et seq.).

22 (2) A school of the defense dependents’ edu-
 23 cation system under the Defense Dependents’ Edu-
 24 cation Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.).

1 (3) A school established under section 2164 of
2 title 10, United States Code.

3 (4) A community-based organization serving
4 families with a family member in the Armed Forces.

5 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible applicant that de-
6 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
7 application to the Secretary of Defense at such time, in
8 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
9 retary of Defense may require. The application shall in-
10 clude a description of—

11 (1) the results of a communitywide needs as-
12 sessment that describes—

13 (A) community demographics dem-
14 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
15 eligible families with a family member in the
16 Armed Forces;

17 (B) the quality, capacity, and existing pro-
18 grams of early childhood home visitation for eli-
19 gible families with a family member in the
20 Armed Forces;

21 (C) the gaps in programs of early child-
22 hood home visitation for eligible families with a
23 family member in the Armed Forces; and

1 (D) the type of program of early childhood
2 home visitation necessary to address the gaps
3 identified;

4 (2) the program of early childhood home visita-
5 tion that will be supported by the grant under this
6 section;

7 (3) how the proposed program of early child-
8 hood home visitation will promote positive parenting
9 skills and children's early learning and development;

10 (4) how the proposed program of early child-
11 hood home visitation will incorporate the authorized
12 activities described in subsection (f);

13 (5) how services provided through a grant
14 under this section will use materials that are geared
15 toward eligible families with a family member in the
16 Armed Forces;

17 (6) how the activities under this section will be
18 coordinated with existing programs of early child-
19 hood home visitation, if such programs exist in the
20 community, in an effort to promote an array of
21 home visitation that ensures more eligible families
22 with a family member in the Armed Forces are
23 being served and are getting the most appropriate
24 services to meet their needs;

25 (7) how the program will ensure that—

1 (A) eligible families with a family member
2 in the Armed Forces are linked to schools; and

3 (B) the activities under this section will
4 support the preparation of children for school;

5 (8) how channels of communication will be es-
6 tablished between staff of programs of early child-
7 hood home visitation and staff of other early child-
8 hood education programs, preschool programs, fam-
9 ily support programs, and child care programs, to
10 facilitate the coordination of services for eligible
11 families with a family member in the Armed Forces;

12 (9) how eligible families with a family member
13 in the Armed Forces will be recruited and retained
14 to receive services under this section;

15 (10) how training and technical assistance will
16 help staff of programs of early childhood home visi-
17 tation involved in activities under this section to
18 more effectively serve eligible families with a family
19 member in the Armed Forces;

20 (11) how the eligible applicant will evaluate the
21 activities supported under this section in order to
22 demonstrate outcomes related to the—

23 (A) increase in number of eligible families
24 with a family member in the Armed Forces

1 served by programs of early childhood home vis-
 2 itation;

3 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
 4 knowledge of early learning and development;

5 (C) enhancement of positive parenting
 6 practices related to early learning and develop-
 7 ment; and

8 (D) enhancement of children's cognitive,
 9 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
 10 opment; and

11 (12) such other information as the Secretary of
 12 Defense may require.

13 (d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
 15 shall select applicants for funding under this section
 16 based on the quality of the applications and the rec-
 17 ommendations of a peer review panel, as described
 18 in paragraph (2).

19 (2) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—The peer review
 20 panel shall include not less than—

21 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
 22 field of home visitation;

23 (B) 2 individuals who are experts in early
 24 childhood development; and

1 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in family
2 support for military families.

3 (e) DURATION OF GRANTS.—Grants made under this
4 section shall be for a period of no more than 3 years.

5 (f) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each eligible appli-
6 cant that receives a grant under this section shall carry
7 out the following activities:

8 (1) Providing to eligible families with a family
9 member in the Armed Forces voluntary early child-
10 hood home visitation, on not less frequently than a
11 monthly basis, through the implementation of Par-
12 ents as Teachers programs, or other programs of
13 early childhood home visitation, that provides par-
14 ents with—

15 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
16 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
17 tional, and motor domains;

18 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
19 age-appropriate child behaviors;

20 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
21 issues for children and parents;

22 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
23 parenting practices;

24 (E) skills to interact with their child to en-
25 hance age-appropriate development;

1 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 2 health issues and developmental delays; and

3 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
 4 come full partners in the education of their chil-
 5 dren.

6 (2) Conducting annual health, vision, hearing,
 7 and developmental screening for participating chil-
 8 dren.

9 (3) Providing referrals for participating eligible
 10 families with a family member in the Armed Forces,
 11 as needed, to additional resources available in the
 12 community, such as center-based early education
 13 programs, child care services, health or mental
 14 health services, family literacy programs, employ-
 15 ment agencies, and social services.

16 (4) Offering group meetings, on not less fre-
 17 quently than a monthly basis, for eligible families
 18 with a family member in the Armed Forces that—

19 (A) further enhance the information, ac-
 20 tivities, and skill-building addressed during
 21 home visitation;

22 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
 23 with and support each other; and

24 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
 25 lies with a family member in the Armed Forces.

1 (5) Providing training and technical assistance
2 to early childhood home visitation and early child-
3 hood care and education staff relating to—

4 (A) effective service to eligible families
5 with a family member in the Armed Forces;

6 (B) effective methods of conducting parent
7 education, home visiting, and promoting quality
8 early childhood development;

9 (C) the relationship of health and well-
10 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
11 child development;

12 (D) early childhood development with re-
13 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
14 dergarten;

15 (E) methods to help parents promote
16 emergent literacy in their children from birth
17 until entry into kindergarten;

18 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
19 gible families with a family member in the
20 Armed Forces coping with crisis;

21 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
22 qualified staff;

23 (H) increasing services for underserved eli-
24 gible families with a family member in the
25 Armed Forces;

1 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
 2 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
 3 and

4 (J) implementation of ongoing program
 5 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
 6 and outcomes.

7 (6) Coordinating existing programs of early
 8 childhood home visitation in order to effectively and
 9 efficiently meet the needs of more eligible families
 10 with a family member in the Armed Forces.

11 (g) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
 12 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,
 13 and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available
 14 for carrying out the activities described in this section.

15 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 16 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 17 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2005 through
 18 2007.

19 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—From funds reserved under sec-
 21 tion 5(b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall conduct an inde-
 22 pendent evaluation of the effectiveness of this Act.

23 (b) REPORTS.—

24 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary shall submit an interim report on the evalua-
 2 tion conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the
 3 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
 4 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
 5 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

6 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
 7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 8 retary shall submit a final report on the evaluation
 9 conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the commit-
 10 tees described in paragraph (1).

11 (c) CONTENTS.—The reports submitted under sub-
 12 section (b) shall include information on the following:

13 (1) How the grant funds have expanded access
 14 to early childhood home visitation.

15 (2) How the States are—

16 (A) enhancing parents' knowledge of early
 17 learning and development;

18 (B) enhancing positive parenting practices
 19 related to early learning and development; and

20 (C) enhancing children's cognitive, lan-
 21 guage, social-emotional, and physical develop-
 22 ment.

23 (3) The effectiveness of early childhood home
 24 visitation on different populations, including families

1 with English language learners and families with a
2 family member in the Armed Forces.

3 (4) The effectiveness of the training and tech-
4 nical assistance activities funded under this Act.

5 (5) Recommendations on strengthening or
6 modifying this Act.

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