

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3628

To expand quality programs of early childhood home visitation, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. OSBORNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To expand quality 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, Indian tribes, tribal orga-
2 nizations, territories, or possessions to deliver qual-
3 ity programs of early childhood home visitation to
4 pregnant women and parents of children from birth
5 until entry into kindergarten in order to promote
6 positive outcomes for children and families including:
7 readiness for school, improved child health and de-
8 velopment, positive parenting practices, reductions in
9 child maltreatment, and enhanced parenting abilities
10 to support their children’s optimal cognitive, lan-
11 guage, social-emotional, and physical development.

12 (2) To improve Early Head Start programs car-
13 ried out under section 645A of the Head Start Act
14 (42 U.S.C. 9840a).

15 (3) To expand quality programs of early child-
16 hood home visitation so as to more effectively reach
17 and serve families with English language learners.

18 (4) To expand quality programs of early child-
19 hood home visitation so as to more effectively reach
20 and serve families serving in the military.

21 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) **ELIGIBLE FAMILY.**—The term “eligible
24 family” means—

25 (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) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe”
9 has the meaning given such term in section 4(e) of
10 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
11 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

12 (4) SECRETARY.—Except as provided in section
13 8, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of
14 Health and Human Services.

15 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
16 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the
17 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

18 (6) TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—The
19 term “territories and possessions” shall include
20 American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the North-
21 ern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States.
22 Virgin Islands.

23 (7) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal
24 organization” has the meaning given the term in

1 section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and
2 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

3 **SEC. 5. GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISITA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary, in collabora-
6 tion with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants
7 to States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to enable
8 States, Indian tribes, and tribal organizations to establish
9 or expand quality programs of early childhood home visita-
10 tion as specified under subsection (f). Each grant shall
11 consist of the allotment determined under subsection (b).

12 (b) DETERMINATION OF RESERVATIONS; AMOUNT OF
13 ALLOTMENTS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) RESERVATIONS FROM APPROPRIATIONS.—
15 From the total amount made available to carry out
16 this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall re-
17 serve—

18 (A) not more than 2 percent of the funds
19 appropriated for any fiscal year for payments to
20 Indian tribes or tribal organizations with an ap-
21 proved application under this section;

22 (B) not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the
23 funds appropriated for any fiscal year for pay-
24 ments to territories and possessions with an ap-
25 proved application under this section; and

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

3 (2) STATE ALLOTMENTS FOR EARLY CHILD-
4 HOOD HOME VISITATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with
6 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allot
7 among each of eligible the States the total
8 amount made available to carry out this section
9 for any fiscal year and not reserved under para-
10 graph (1), to carry out early childhood home
11 visitation in accordance with this section.

12 (B) DETERMINATION OF STATE ALLOT-
13 MENTS.—

14 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
15 (ii), the Secretary shall allot the amount
16 made available under subparagraph (A) for
17 a fiscal year among the eligible States in
18 proportion to the number of children, aged
19 from birth to 5 years, who reside within
20 the State, compared to the number of such
21 individuals who reside in all such States
22 for that fiscal year.

23 (ii) EXCEPTION.—No State receiving
24 an allotment under clause (i) may receive
25 more than \$20,000,000.

1 (3) PAYMENTS TO TRIBES AND TERRITORIES.—

2 (A) Out of the funds reserved under para-
3 graph (1)(A), the Secretary shall provide funds
4 to each Indian tribe or tribal organization with
5 an approved application under this section in
6 accordance with the respective needs described
7 in that application.

8 (B) Out of the funds reserved under para-
9 graph (1)(B), the Secretary shall provide funds
10 to each territory or possession with an approved
11 application under this section in accordance
12 with the respective needs described in that ap-
13 plication.

14 (4) APPLICATIONS OF INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL
15 ORGANIZATIONS, TERRITORIES, OR POSSESSIONS.—

16 (A) Subject to subparagraph (B) the Sec-
17 retary shall approve an application of an Indian
18 tribe, tribal organization, territory, or posses-
19 sion based on the quality of the application.

20 (B) The Secretary may exempt an applica-
21 tion submitted by an Indian tribe, tribal organi-
22 zation, territory, or possession from any re-
23 quirement of this section that the secretary de-
24 termines would be inappropriate to apply taking
25 into account the resources, needs, and other cir-

1 cumstances of the indian tribe, tribal organiza-
2 tion territory, or possession with the exception
3 of the provision of quality early childhood home
4 visitation as outlined in section (5)(f)(1), re-
5 porting requirements detailed in paragraphs (1)
6 and (3) of section 5(h), and participation in the
7 independent evaluation outlined in section 9.

8 (5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this section \$400,000,000 for the period of fiscal
11 years 2006 through 2008.

12 (c) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—A State, Indian tribe,

13 tribal organization, territory, or possession that desires to
14 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
15 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
16 containing such information as the Secretary may require.
17 The application shall contain the following information:

18 (1) An assurance that the Governor of the
19 State has designated a lead State agency, such as
20 the State educational agency or the State health and
21 human services agency, to carry out the activities
22 under this section.

23 (2) An assurance that the State will reserve 3
24 percent of such grant for evaluation and will partici-
25 pate in the independent evaluation under section 9.

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

5 (4) An assurance that the State will authorize
6 child care resource and referral agencies to refer
7 parents seeking home visitation services.

8 (5) 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 (6) A State plan containing the following:

19 (A) A description of the State's strategy to
20 establish or expand quality programs of early
21 childhood home visitation to serve all eligible
22 families in the State.

23 (B) A description of the quality programs
24 of early childhood home visitation that will be
25 supported by a grant under this section.

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

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

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

16 (F) How the lead State agency will pro-
17 mote channels of communication between staff
18 of programs of early childhood home visitation
19 and staff of other early childhood education
20 programs, such as Head Start programs carried
21 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
22 et seq.) and Early Head Start programs carried
23 out under section 645A of such Act, the Ameri-
24 cans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. 12101 et
25 seq.), preschool programs, and child care pro-

grams, to facilitate the coordination of services for eligible families.

(G) How the lead State agency will provide training and technical assistance to staff of programs of early childhood home visitation involved in activities under this section to more effectively meet the needs of the eligible families served, with sensitivity to cultural variations in parenting norms and attitudes toward formal support services.

(H) How the lead State agency will evaluate the activities supported under this section in order to assess outcomes related to the enhancement of—

(i) parental practices;

(ii) child health and development indicators;

(iii) child maltreatment indicators;

(iv) school readiness indicators; and

(v) links to community services.

(I) Such other information as the Secretary may require.

(d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

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

ommendations of a peer review panel, as described in paragraph (2). The state panel shall select applicants based on the quality of the application, with consideration given to including some applicants—to the extent practicable—with the ability to incorporate comparison or control groups in their service delivery model, recognizing that not all quality programs will be able to do so but that having some such programs would contribute to evaluation.

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

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

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

(C) 1 individual with experience implementing a statewide program of early childhood home visitation;

(D) 1 individual who is a board certified pediatrician or a developmental pediatrician; and

(E) 1 individual with experience in administering public or private (including community-based) child maltreatment prevention programs.

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

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

5 (1) provide to as many eligible families in the
6 State as practicable, voluntary early childhood home
7 visitation, on not less frequently than a monthly
8 basis with greater frequency of services for those eli-
9 gible families identified with additional needs,
10 through the implementation of quality programs of
11 early childhood home visitation that—

12 (A) adopt a clear, consistent model that is
13 grounded in empirically-based knowledge re-
14 lated to home visiting and linked to program-
15 determined outcomes;

16 (B) employ well-trained and competent
17 staff, as demonstrated by education or training,
18 and the provision of ongoing and specific train-
19 ing on the model being delivered;

20 (C) maintain high quality supervision to
21 establish home visitor competencies;

22 (D) show strong organizational capacity to
23 implement the program;

1 (E) establish appropriate linkages and re-
2 ferral networks to other community resources
3 and supports;

4 (F) monitor fidelity of program implemen-
5 tation to assure that services are delivered ac-
6 cording to the specified model; and

7 (G) provide parents with—

8 (i) knowledge of age appropriate child
9 development in cognitive, language, social-
10 emotional, and motor domains;

11 (ii) knowledge of realistic expectations
12 of age-appropriate child behaviors;

13 (iii) knowledge of health and wellness
14 issues for children and parents;

15 (iv) modeling, consulting, and coach-
16 ing on parenting practices;

17 (v) skills to interact with their child to
18 enhance age-appropriate development;

19 (vi) skills to recognize and seek help
20 for issues related to health, developmental
21 delays, and social, emotional, and behav-
22 ioral skills; and

23 (vii) activities designed to help par-
24 ents become full partners in the education
25 of their children;

1 (H) ascertain what health and develop-
2 mental services the family receives and work
3 with these providers to eliminate gaps in service
4 by offering annual health, vision, hearing, and
5 developmental screening for children from birth
6 to entry into kindergarten, when not otherwise
7 provided;

8 (I) provide referrals for eligible families, as
9 needed, to additional resources available in the
10 community, such as center-based early edu-
11 cation programs, child care services, health or
12 mental health services, family literacy pro-
13 grams, employment agencies, social services,
14 and child care resource and referral agencies;
15 and

16 (J) offer group meetings (at program dis-
17 cretion), on not less frequently than a monthly
18 basis, for eligible families that—

19 (i) further enhance the information,
20 activities, and skill-building addressed dur-
21 ing home visitation; and

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

24 (2) reserve 10 percent of the grant funds to
25 provide training and technical assistance, directly or

1 through contract, to early childhood home visitation
2 and early childhood care and education staff relating
3 to—

4 (A) effective methods of implementing par-
5 ent education, conducting home visiting, and
6 promoting quality early childhood development;

7 (B) the relationship of health and well-
8 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
9 childhood development;

10 (C) early childhood development with re-
11 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
12 dergarten;

13 (D) methods to help parents promote
14 emergent literacy in their children from birth
15 until entry into kindergarten;

16 (E) health, vision, hearing, and develop-
17 mental screenings;

18 (F) strategies for helping eligible families
19 with special needs or those eligible families cop-
20 ing with crisis;

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

23 (H) increasing services for underserved
24 populations;

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

3 (J) implementation of ongoing program
4 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
5 and outcomes; and

6 (K) relevant issues related to child welfare
7 and protective services, with information pro-
8 vided being consistent with state child welfare
9 agency training.

10 (3) ensure coordination of programs of early
11 childhood home visitation, early childhood education
12 and care, and early intervention, through an existing
13 or created State-level early childhood coordinating
14 body that includes—

15 (A) representatives from relevant State
16 agencies, including the State agency with re-
17 sponsibility for carrying out the plan under Sec-
18 tion 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention and
19 Treatment Act;

20 (B) representatives from State Head Start
21 Associations;

22 (C) the State official with responsibility for
23 carrying out activities under part C of the Indi-
24 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
25 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

1 (D) the State official with responsibility
2 for carrying out activities under section 619 of
3 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
4 (20 U.S.C. 1419);

5 (E) representatives from child care re-
6 source and referral State offices;

7 (F) representatives from quality programs
8 of early childhood home visitation; and

9 (G) a board certified pediatrician or a de-
10 velopmental pediatrician; and

11 (4) not expend more than 5 percent of the
12 amount of grant funds received under this section
13 for the administration of the grant, including plan-
14 ning, administration, and annual reporting.

15 (g) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State is entitled
16 to receive its full allotment of funds under this section for
17 any fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the aggregate
18 expenditures within the State for quality programs of
19 early childhood home visitation for the fiscal year pre-
20 ceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made
21 was not less than 100 percent of such aggregate expendi-
22 tures for the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year
23 for which the determination is made.

24 (h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State that
25 receives a grant under this section shall submit an annual

1 report to the Secretary regarding the State's progress in
2 addressing the purposes of this Act. Such report shall in-
3 clude, at a minimum, a description of—

4 (1) actual service delivery provided under the
5 grant including—

6 (A) program characteristics including de-
7 scriptive information on the service model used
8 and actual program performance;

9 (B) provider characteristics including staff
10 qualifications, work experience, and demo-
11 graphic characteristics;

12 (C) recipient characteristics including
13 number, demographic characteristics, and fam-
14 ily retention; and

15 (D) an estimate of annual program imple-
16 mentation costs;

17 (2) recipient outcomes that are consistent with
18 program goals including, where appropriate given
19 the program being evaluated—

20 (A) parental practices;

21 (B) child health and development indica-
22 tors;

23 (C) child maltreatment indicators

24 (D) school readiness indicators; and

25 (E) links to community services;

1 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
2 and activities being used in the activities funded
3 under the grant;

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

6 (A) to staff supported under the grant;
7 and

8 (B) to the broader early childhood commu-
9 nity; and

10 (5) beginning at the end of the second year of
11 the grant, the results of evaluations described in
12 subsection (c)(6)(H).

13 **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING EARLY HEAD START HOME VISI-**
14 **TATION.**

15 Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
16 9840a) is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)—

18 (A) in paragraph (4), by striking “provide
19 services to parents to support their role as par-
20 ents” and inserting “provide additional services
21 to parents to support their role as parents (in-
22 cluding training in parenting skills, basic child
23 development, and sensitivity to cultural vari-
24 ations in parenting norms and attitudes toward
25 formal supports)”;

1 (B) in paragraph (5)—

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

4 (ii) by inserting “, and family support
5 services” after “health services”;

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

9 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
10 following:

11 “(7) develop and implement a systematic proce-
12 dure for transitioning children and parents from an
13 Early Head Start program into a Head Start pro-
14 gram or another local early childhood education pro-
15 gram;

16 “(8) establish channels of communication be-
17 tween staff of Early Head Start programs and staff
18 of Head Start programs or other local early child-
19 hood education programs, to facilitate the coordina-
20 tion of programs;”;

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

23 “(iv) providing professional develop-
24 ment and personnel enhancement activi-
25 ties, including the provision of funds to re-

1 cipients of grants under subsection (a), re-
2 lating to effective methods of implementing
3 parent education, conducting home vis-
4 iting, and promoting quality early child-
5 hood development.”; and

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

7 “(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

8 “(1) HOME VISITOR STAFF.—

9 “(A) STANDARDS.—In order to further en-
10 hance the quality of home visiting services pro-
11 vided to families of children participating in
12 home-based, center-based, or combination pro-
13 gram options under this subchapter, the Sec-
14 retary shall establish standards for training,
15 qualifications, and the conduct of home visits
16 for home visitor staff in Early Head Start pro-
17 grams.

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

21 “(i) structured child-focused home vis-
22 iting that promotes parents’ ability to sup-
23 port the child’s cognitive, social, emotional,
24 and physical development;

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

4 “(iii) early childhood development
5 with respect to children from birth through
6 age 3;

7 “(iv) methods to help parents promote
8 emergent literacy in their children from
9 birth through age 3;

10 “(v) ascertaining what health and de-
11 velopmental services the family receives
12 and working with these providers to elimi-
13 nate gaps in service by offering annual
14 health, vision, hearing, and developmental
15 screening for children from birth to entry
16 into kindergarten, when needed;

17 “(vi) strategies for helping families
18 coping with crisis; and

19 “(vii) the relationship of health and
20 well-being of pregnant women to prenatal
21 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 quality programs of early childhood home
9 visitation to eligible families with English language learn-
10 ers.

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 sessment 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 and capacity of existing
7 programs of early childhood home visitation for
8 eligible families with English language learners
9 in the community;

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

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

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

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

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

1 (5) how services provided through a grant
2 under this section will use materials that are geared
3 toward eligible families with English language learn-
4 ers;

5 (6) how the activities under this section will
6 build on and promote coordination among existing
7 programs of early childhood home visitation, if such
8 programs exist in the community, in an effort to
9 promote an array of home visitation that ensures
10 more eligible families with English language learners
11 are being served and are getting the most appro-
12 priate services to meet their needs;

13 (7) how the program will ensure that—

14 (A) eligible families with English language
15 learners are linked to schools; and

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

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

1 facilitate the coordination of services for eligible fami-
2 lies with English language learners;

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

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

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

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

17 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
18 knowledge of early learning and development;

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

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

1 (12) such other information as the Secretary
2 may require.

3 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

11 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
12 field of home visitation;

13 (B) 2 individuals who are experts in early
14 childhood development;

15 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in serv-
16 ing eligible families with English language
17 learners;

18 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
19 pediatrician or a developmental pediatrician;
20 and

21 (E) 1 individual with experience in admin-
22 istering public or private (including community-
23 based) child maltreatment prevention programs.

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

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

4 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
5 English language learners as practicable, voluntary
6 early childhood home visitation, on not less fre-
7 quently than a monthly basis, through the imple-
8 mentation of quality programs of early childhood
9 home visitation that are research-based that provide
10 parents with—

11 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
12 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
13 tional, and motor domains;

14 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
15 age-appropriate child behaviors;

16 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
17 issues for children and parents;

18 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
19 parenting practices;

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

22 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
23 issues related to health, developmental delays,
24 and social, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

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

4 (2) Ascertaining what health and developmental
5 services the family receives and working with these
6 providers to eliminate gaps in service by offering an-
7 nual health, vision, hearing, and developmental
8 screening for children from birth to entry into kin-
9 dergarten, when needed.

10 (3) Providing referrals for participating eligible
11 families with English language learners, as needed,
12 to additional resources available in the community,
13 such as center-based early education programs, child
14 care services, health or mental health services, fam-
15 ily literacy programs, employment agencies, social
16 services, and child care resource and referral agen-
17 cies.

18 (4) Offering group meetings (at program dis-
19 cretion), on not less frequently than a monthly basis,
20 for eligible families with English language learners
21 that—

22 (A) further enhance the information, ac-
23 tivities, and skill-building addressed during
24 home visitation;

1 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
2 with and support each other; and

3 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
4 lies with English language learners.

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

8 (A) effective service to eligible families
9 with English language learners, including skills
10 to address challenges facing English language
11 learners;

12 (B) effective methods of implementing par-
13 ent education, conducting home visiting, and
14 promoting quality early childhood development,
15 with sensitivity to cultural variations in par-
16 enting norms and attitudes toward formal sup-
17 port services;

18 (C) the relationship of health and well-
19 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
20 child development;

21 (D) early childhood development with re-
22 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
23 dergarten;

1 (E) methods to help parents promote
2 emergent literacy in their children from birth
3 until entry into kindergarten;

4 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
5 gible families with English language learners
6 coping with a crisis;

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

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

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

14 (J) implementation of ongoing program
15 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
16 and outcomes.

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

21 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each applicant
22 that receives a grant under this section to carry out a pro-
23 gram shall submit an annual report to the Secretary re-
24 garding the progress of such program in addressing the

1 purposes of this Act. Such report shall include, at a min-
2 imum, a description of—

3 (1) actual service delivery provided under the
4 grant including—

5 (A) program characteristics including de-
6 scriptive information on the service model used
7 and actual program performance;

8 (B) provider characteristics including staff
9 qualifications, work experience, and demo-
10 graphic characteristics;

11 (C) recipient characteristics including
12 number, demographic characteristics, and fam-
13 ily retention; and

14 (D) an estimate of annual program imple-
15 mentation costs;

16 (2) recipient outcomes that are consistent with
17 program goals including, where appropriate given
18 the program being evaluated—

19 (A) parental practices;

20 (B) child health and development indica-
21 tors;

22 (C) child maltreatment indicators

23 (D) school readiness indicators; and

24 (E) links to community services;

1 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
 2 and activities being used in the activities funded
 3 under the grant; and

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

6 (A) to staff supported under the grant;
 7 and

8 (B) to the broader early childhood commu-
 9 nity.

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

14 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 15 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 16 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2006 through
 17 2008.

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

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in col-
 21 laboration with the Secretary of Education, shall make
 22 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to en-
 23 able such applicants to support and expand efforts to de-
 24 liver services under quality programs of early childhood

1 home visitation to eligible families with a family member
2 in the Armed Forces.

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

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

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

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

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

16 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible applicant that de-
17 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
18 application to the Secretary of Defense at such time, in
19 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
20 retary of Defense may require. The application shall in-
21 clude a description of—

22 (1) the results of a communitywide needs as-
23 sessment that describes—

24 (A) community demographics dem-
25 onstrating the need for outreach and services to

1 eligible families with a family member in the
2 Armed Forces;

3 (B) the quality and capacity of existing
4 programs of early childhood home visitation for
5 eligible families with a family member in the
6 Armed Forces;

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) how services provided through a grant
23 under this section will use materials that are geared
24 toward eligible families with a family member in the
25 Armed Forces;

1 (6) how the activities under this section will
2 build on and promote coordination with existing pro-
3 grams of early childhood home visitation, if such
4 programs exist in the community, in an effort to
5 promote an array of home visitation that ensures
6 more eligible families with a family member in the
7 Armed Forces are being served and are getting the
8 most appropriate services to meet their needs;

9 (7) how the program will ensure that—

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

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

14 (8) how channels of communication will be es-
15 tablished between staff of programs of early child-
16 hood home visitation and staff of other early child-
17 hood education programs, such as Head Start pro-
18 grams carried out under the Head Start Act (42
19 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and Early Head Start pro-
20 grams carried out under section 645A of such Act,
21 preschool programs, family support programs, and
22 child care programs, to facilitate the coordination of
23 services for eligible families with a family member in
24 the Armed Forces;

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

4 (10) how training and technical assistance will
5 help staff of programs of early childhood home visi-
6 tation involved in activities under this section to
7 more effectively serve eligible families with a family
8 member in the Armed Forces;

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 a family member in the Armed Forces
14 served by programs of early childhood home vis-
15 itation;

16 (B) enhancement of participating parents’
17 knowledge of early learning and development;

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

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

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

1 (d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

13 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in family
14 support for military families;

15 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
16 pediatrician or developmental pediatrician; and

17 (E) 1 individual with experience in admin-
18 istering public or private (including community-
19 based) child maltreatment prevention programs.

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

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

1 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
2 a family member in the Armed Forces as prac-
3 ticable, voluntary early childhood home visitation, on
4 not less frequently than a monthly basis, through
5 the implementation of quality programs of early
6 childhood home visitation that are research-based
7 and that provide parents with—

8 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
9 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
10 tional, and motor domains;

11 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
12 age-appropriate child behaviors;

13 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
14 issues for children and parents;

15 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
16 parenting practices;

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

19 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
20 issues related to health, developmental delays,
21 and social, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

22 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
23 come full partners in the education of their chil-
24 dren.

1 (2) Ascertaining what health and developmental
2 services the family receives and working with these
3 providers to eliminate gaps in service by offering an-
4 nual health, vision, hearing, and developmental
5 screening for children from birth to entry into kin-
6 dergarten, when needed.

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

15 (4) Offering group meetings (at program dis-
16 cretion), on not less frequently than a monthly basis,
17 for eligible families with a family member in the
18 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 implementing par-
7 ent education, conducting home visiting, and
8 promoting quality early childhood development,
9 with sensitivity to cultural variations in par-
10 enting norms and attitudes toward formal sup-
11 port services;

12 (C) the relationship of health and well-
13 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
14 child development;

15 (D) early childhood development with re-
16 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
17 dergarten;

18 (E) methods to help parents promote
19 emergent literacy in their children from birth
20 until entry into kindergarten;

21 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
22 gible families with a family member in the
23 Armed Forces coping with crisis;

24 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
25 qualified staff;

1 (H) increasing services for underserved eli-
2 gible families with a family member in the
3 Armed Forces;

4 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
5 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
6 and

7 (J) implementation of ongoing program
8 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
9 and outcomes.

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

14 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each applicant
15 that receives a grant under this section to carry out a pro-
16 gram shall submit an annual report to the Secretary re-
17 garding the progress of such program in addressing the
18 purposes of this Act. Such report shall include, at a min-
19 imum, a description of—

20 (1) actual service delivery provided under the
21 grant including—

22 (A) program characteristics including de-
23 scriptive information on the service model used
24 and actual program performance;

1 (B) provider characteristics including staff
2 qualifications, work experience, and demo-
3 graphic characteristics;

4 (C) recipient characteristics including
5 number, demographic characteristics, and fam-
6 ily retention; and

7 (D) an estimate of annual program imple-
8 mentation costs;

9 (2) recipient outcomes that are consistent with
10 program goals including, where appropriate given
11 the program being evaluated—

12 (A) parental practices;

13 (B) child health and development indica-
14 tors;

15 (C) child maltreatment indicators

16 (D) school readiness indicators; and

17 (E) links to community services;

18 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
19 and activities being used in the activities funded
20 under the grant; and

21 (4) the effectiveness of the training and ongoing
22 professional development provided—

23 (A) to staff supported under the grant;

24 and

1 (B) to the broader early childhood commu-
2 nity.

3 (h) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds pro-
4 vided under this section shall be used to supplement, and
5 not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available for
6 carrying out the activities described in this section.

7 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2006 through
10 2008.

11 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION.**

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

15 (b) REPORTS.—

16 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
17 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary shall submit an interim report on the evalua-
19 tion conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the
20 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
21 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
22 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

23 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 3 years
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
25 retary shall submit a final report on the evaluation

1 conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the commit-
2 tees described in paragraph (1).

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

5 (1) How the grant funds have expanded access
6 to early childhood home visitation including—

7 (A) demonstrating that programs funded
8 reflect the quality indicators outlined in section
9 5(f)(1); and

10 (B) documenting the service delivery indi-
11 cators, as outlined in section 5(h)(1), across all
12 recipients receiving grants with attention to the
13 number of families served and the level of serv-
14 ice received.

15 (2) How the States affect outcomes consistent
16 with program goals including, where appropriate
17 given the program being evaluated, parenting prac-
18 tices, child health and development, child maltreat-
19 ment, school readiness, and links to community serv-
20 ices.

21 (3) The effectiveness of early childhood home
22 visitation on different populations, including the ex-
23 tent to which variability exists in program ability to
24 improve outcomes across programs and populations,

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

3 (4) Descriptions of the technical assistance and
4 training actually provided and the nature of the pop-
5 ulations receiving this assistance.

6 (5) The effectiveness of the training and tech-
7 nical assistance activities funded under this Act, in-
8 cluding the effects of training and technical assist-
9 ance activities on program performance and agency-
10 level collaboration.

11 (6) Recommendations on strengthening or
12 modifying this Act.

○