

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 503

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2005

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. DEWINE) 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 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 to deliver services under
2 Parents as Teachers programs, or other quality pro-
3 grams of early childhood home visitation, to preg-
4 nant women and parents of children from birth until
5 entry into kindergarten in order to promote parents’
6 ability to support their children’s optimal cognitive,
7 language, social-emotional, and physical develop-
8 ment.

9 (2) To improve Early Head Start programs car-
10 ried out under section 645A of the Head Start Act
11 (42 U.S.C. 9840a).

12 (3) To expand Parents as Teachers programs,
13 or other quality programs of early childhood home
14 visitation, so as to more effectively reach and serve
15 families with English language learners.

16 (4) To expand Parents as Teachers programs,
17 or other quality programs of early childhood home
18 visitation, so as to more effectively reach and serve
19 families serving in the military.

20 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

21 In this Act:

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

24 (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 quality programs of
 20 early childhood home visitation, as specified under sub-
 21 section (f). Each grant shall consist of the allotment deter-
 22 mined 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 2006 through 2008.

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) An assurance that the State will authorize
9 child care resource and referral agencies to refer
10 parents seeking home visitation services.

11 (5) The results of a statewide needs assessment
12 that describes—

13 (A) the quality and capacity of existing
14 programs of early childhood home visitation in
15 the State;

16 (B) the number and types of eligible fami-
17 lies who are receiving services under such pro-
18 grams; and

19 (C) the gaps in early childhood home visi-
20 tation in the State.

21 (6) A State plan containing the following:

22 (A) A description of the State's strategy to
23 establish or expand Parents as Teachers pro-
24 grams, or other quality programs of early child-

1 hood home visitation, to serve all eligible fami-
2 lies in the State.

3 (B) A description of the Parents as Teach-
4 ers programs, or other quality programs of
5 early childhood home visitation, that will be
6 supported by a grant under this section.

7 (C) A description of how the proposed pro-
8 gram of early childhood home visitation will
9 promote positive parenting skills and children's
10 early learning and development.

11 (D) A description of how the proposed pro-
12 gram of early childhood home visitation will in-
13 corporate the authorized activities described in
14 subsection (f).

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

22 (F) How the lead State agency will pro-
23 mote channels of communication between staff
24 of programs of early childhood home visitation
25 and staff of other early childhood education

1 programs, such as Head Start programs carried
 2 out under the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831
 3 et seq.) and Early Head Start programs carried
 4 out under section 645A of such Act, preschool
 5 programs, and child care programs, to facilitate
 6 the coordination of services for eligible families.

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

13 (H) How the lead State agency will evalu-
 14 ate the activities supported under this section in
 15 order to demonstrate outcomes related to the
 16 enhancement of—

17 (i) parent knowledge of early learning
 18 and development;

19 (ii) positive parenting practices re-
 20 lated to early learning and development;
 21 and

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

24 (I) Such other information as the Sec-
 25 retary may require.

1 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall approve
3 an application under this section based on the qual-
4 ity of the application and the recommendations of a
5 peer review panel, as described in paragraph (2).

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

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

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

12 (C) 1 individual with experience imple-
13 menting a statewide program of early childhood
14 home visitation; and

15 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
16 pediatrician.

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

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

21 (1) provide to as many eligible families in the
22 State as practicable, voluntary early childhood home
23 visitation, on not less frequently than a monthly
24 basis with greater frequency of services for those eli-
25 gible families identified with additional needs,

1 through the implementation of Parents as Teachers
2 programs, or other quality programs of early child-
3 hood home visitation that are research-based, that
4 provide parents with—

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

8 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
9 age-appropriate child behaviors;

10 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
11 issues for children and parents;

12 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
13 parenting practices;

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

16 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
17 health issues and developmental delays; and

18 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
19 come full partners in the education of their chil-
20 dren;

21 (2) offer annual health, vision, hearing, and de-
22 velopmental screening for children from birth until
23 entry into kindergarten;

24 (3) provide referrals for eligible families, as
25 needed, to additional resources available in the com-

1 munity, such as center-based early education pro-
2 grams, child care services, health or mental health
3 services, family literacy programs, employment agen-
4 cies, social services, and child care resource and re-
5 ferral agencies;

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

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

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

13 (5) reserve 10 percent of the grant funds to
14 provide training and technical assistance, directly or
15 through contract, to early childhood home visitation
16 and early childhood care and education staff relating
17 to—

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

21 (B) the relationship of health and well-
22 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
23 childhood development;

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

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

7 (E) health, vision, hearing, and develop-
 8 mental screenings;

9 (F) strategies for helping eligible families
 10 with special needs or those eligible families cop-
 11 ing with crisis;

12 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
 13 qualified staff;

14 (H) increasing services for underserved
 15 populations;

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

19 (J) implementation of ongoing program
 20 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
 21 and outcomes;

22 (6) ensure coordination of programs of early
 23 childhood home visitation, early childhood education
 24 and care, and early intervention, through an existing

1 or created State-level early childhood coordinating
2 body that includes—

3 (A) representatives from relevant State
4 agencies;

5 (B) representatives from State Head Start
6 Associations;

7 (C) the State official with responsibility for
8 carrying out activities under part C of the Indi-
9 viduals with Disabilities Education Act (20
10 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

11 (D) the State official with responsibility
12 for carrying out activities under section 619 of
13 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
14 (20 U.S.C. 1419);

15 (E) representatives from child care re-
16 source and referral State offices;

17 (F) representatives from Parents as
18 Teachers State affiliate offices;

19 (G) representatives from other quality pro-
20 grams of early childhood home visitation; and

21 (H) a board certified pediatrician; and

22 (7) not expend more than 10 percent of the
23 amount of grant funds received under this section
24 for the administration of the grant, including plan-

1 ning, administration, evaluation, and annual report-
2 ing.

3 (g) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State is entitled
4 to receive its full allotment of funds under this section for
5 any fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the aggregate
6 expenditures within the State for Parents as Teachers pro-
7 grams, or other quality programs of early childhood home
8 visitation, for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for
9 which the determination is made was not less than 100
10 percent of such aggregate expenditures for the second fis-
11 cal year preceding the fiscal year for which the determina-
12 tion is made.

13 (h) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Each State that
14 receives a grant under this section shall submit an annual
15 report to the Secretary regarding the State's progress in
16 addressing the purposes of this Act. Such report shall in-
17 clude, at a minimum, a description of—

18 (1) the types of activities funded under the
19 grant;

20 (2) the children and eligible families served by
21 the programs funded under the grant;

22 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
23 and activities being used in the activities funded
24 under the grant;

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

(A) to staff supported under the grant;

and

(B) to the broader early childhood community; and

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

SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING EARLY HEAD START HOME VISITATION.

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

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “provide services to parents to support their role as parents” and inserting “provide additional services to parents to support their role as parents (including parenting skills training and training in basic child development)”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

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

4 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
 5 following:

6 “(7) develop and implement a systematic proce-
 7 dure for transitioning children and parents from an
 8 Early Head Start program into a Head Start pro-
 9 gram or another local early childhood education pro-
 10 gram;

11 “(8) establish channels of communication be-
 12 tween staff of Early Head Start programs and staff
 13 of Head Start programs or other local early child-
 14 hood education programs, to facilitate the coordina-
 15 tion of programs;”;

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

18 “(iv) providing professional develop-
 19 ment and personnel enhancement activi-
 20 ties, including the provision of funds to re-
 21 cipients of grants under subsection (a), re-
 22 lating to effective methods of conducting
 23 parent education, home visiting, and pro-
 24 moting quality early childhood develop-
 25 ment.”; and

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

2 “(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

3 “(1) HOME VISITOR STAFF.—

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

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

16 “(i) structured child-focused home vis-
 17 iting that promotes parents’ ability to sup-
 18 port the child’s cognitive, social, emotional,
 19 and physical development;

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

23 “(iii) early childhood development
 24 with respect to children from birth through
 25 age 3;

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

4 “(v) health, vision, hearing, and devel-
5 opmental screenings;

6 “(vi) strategies for helping families
7 coping with crisis; and

8 “(vii) the relationship of health and
9 well-being of pregnant women to prenatal
10 and early child development.”.

11 **SEC. 7. TARGETED GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME**
12 **VISITATION FOR FAMILIES WITH ENGLISH**
13 **LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration
15 with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants, on
16 a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to enable such
17 applicants to support and expand local efforts to deliver
18 services under the Parents as Teachers programs, or other
19 quality programs of early childhood home visitation, to eli-
20 gible families with English language learners.

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

23 (1) 1 or more local educational agencies (as de-
24 fined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-

1 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));
 2 and

3 (2) 1 or more public or private community-
 4 based organizations or agencies that serve eligible
 5 families and are capable of establishing and imple-
 6 menting programs of early childhood home visita-
 7 tion.

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

13 (1) the results of a communitywide needs as-
 14 sessment that describes—

15 (A) community demographics dem-
 16 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
 17 eligible families with English language learners;

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

21 (C) the gaps in programs of early child-
 22 hood home visitation for eligible families with
 23 English language learners; 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 English language learn-
16 ers;

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 English language learners are being served and
23 are getting the most appropriate services to meet
24 their needs;

25 (7) how the program will ensure that—

1 (A) eligible families with English language
2 learners 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, such as Head Start pro-
9 grams carried out under the Head Start Act (42
10 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and Early Head Start pro-
11 grams carried out under section 645A of such Act,
12 preschool programs, and child care programs, to fa-
13 cilitate the coordination of services for eligible fami-
14 lies with English language learners;

15 (9) how eligible families with English language
16 learners will be recruited and retained to receive
17 services under this section;

18 (10) how training and technical assistance will
19 help the staff of programs of early childhood home
20 visitation involved in activities under this section to
21 more effectively serve eligible families with English
22 language learners;

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

1 (A) increase in number of eligible families
 2 with English language learners served by pro-
 3 grams of early childhood home visitation;

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

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

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

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

14 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

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

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

1 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in serv-
 2 ing eligible families with English language
 3 learners; and

4 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
 5 pediatrician.

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

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

11 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
 12 English language learners as practicable, voluntary
 13 early childhood home visitation, on not less fre-
 14 quently than a monthly basis, through the imple-
 15 mentation of Parents as Teachers programs, or
 16 other quality programs of early childhood home visi-
 17 tation that are research-based, that provide parents
 18 with—

19 (A) knowledge of age appropriate child de-
 20 velopment in cognitive, language, social-emo-
 21 tional, and motor domains;

22 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
 23 age-appropriate child behaviors;

24 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
 25 issues for children and parents;

1 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
 2 parenting practices;

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

5 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 6 health issues and developmental delays; and

7 (G) activities designed to help parents be-
 8 come full partners in the education of their chil-
 9 dren.

10 (2) Conducting annual health, vision, hearing,
 11 and developmental screening for participating chil-
 12 dren who are English language learners.

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

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

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

4 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
5 with and support each other; and

6 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
7 lies with English language learners.

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

11 (A) effective service to eligible families
12 with English language learners;

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

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

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

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

1 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
2 gible families with English language learners
3 coping with a crisis;

4 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
5 qualified staff;

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

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

11 (J) implementation of ongoing program
12 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
13 and outcomes.

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

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

22 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2006 through
25 2008.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (c) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible applicant that de-
 25 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit an
 26 application to the Secretary of Defense at such time, in

1 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2 retary of Defense may require. The application shall in-
3 clude a description of—

4 (1) the results of a communitywide needs as-
5 sessment that describes—

6 (A) community demographics dem-
7 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
8 eligible families with a family member in the
9 Armed Forces;

10 (B) the quality, capacity, and existing pro-
11 grams of early childhood home visitation for eli-
12 gible families with a family member in the
13 Armed Forces;

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

17 (D) the type of program of early childhood
18 home visitation necessary to address the gaps
19 identified;

20 (2) the program of early childhood home visita-
21 tion that will be supported by the grant under this
22 section;

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

1 (4) how the proposed program of early child-
2 hood home visitation will incorporate the authorized
3 activities described in subsection (f);

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

8 (6) how the activities under this section will be
9 coordinated with existing programs of early child-
10 hood home visitation, if such programs exist in the
11 community, in an effort to promote an array of
12 home visitation that ensures more eligible families
13 with a family member in the Armed Forces are
14 being served and are getting the most appropriate
15 services to meet their needs;

16 (7) how the program will ensure that—

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

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

21 (8) how channels of communication will be es-
22 tablished between staff of programs of early child-
23 hood home visitation and staff of other early child-
24 hood education programs, preschool programs, fam-
25 ily support programs, and child care programs, to

1 facilitate the coordination of services for eligible
 2 families with a family member in the Armed Forces;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

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

17 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
18 pediatrician.

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

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

24 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
25 a family member in the Armed Forces as prac-

1 ticable, voluntary early childhood home visitation, on
 2 not less frequently than a monthly basis, through
 3 the implementation of Parents as Teachers pro-
 4 grams, or other quality programs of early childhood
 5 home visitation that are research-based, that provide
 6 parents with—

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

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

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

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

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

18 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 19 health issues and developmental delays; and

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

23 (2) Conducting annual health, vision, hearing,
 24 and developmental screening for participating chil-
 25 dren.

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

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

12 (A) further enhance the information, ac-
13 tivities, and skill-building addressed during
14 home visitation;

15 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
16 with and support each other; and

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

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

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

1 (B) effective methods of conducting parent
2 education, home visiting, and promoting quality
3 early childhood development;

4 (C) the relationship of health and well-
5 being of pregnant women to prenatal and early
6 child development;

7 (D) early childhood development with re-
8 spect to children from birth until entry into kin-
9 dergarten;

10 (E) methods to help parents promote
11 emergent literacy in their children from birth
12 until entry into kindergarten;

13 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
14 gible families with a family member in the
15 Armed Forces coping with crisis;

16 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
17 qualified staff;

18 (H) increasing services for underserved eli-
19 gible families with a family member in the
20 Armed Forces;

21 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
22 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
23 and

1 (J) implementation of ongoing program
 2 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
 3 and outcomes.

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

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

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

16 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION.**

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

20 (b) REPORTS.—

21 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
 22 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 23 retary shall submit an interim report on the evalua-
 24 tion conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the
 25 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-

1 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
2 and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

12 (2) How the States are—

13 (A) enhancing parents’ knowledge of early
14 learning and development;

15 (B) enhancing positive parenting practices
16 related to early learning and development; and

17 (C) enhancing children’s cognitive, lan-
18 guage, social-emotional, and physical develop-
19 ment.

20 (3) The effectiveness of early childhood home
21 visitation on different populations, including families
22 with English language learners and families with a
23 family member in the Armed Forces.

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

- 1 (5) Recommendations on strengthening or
- 2 modifying this Act.

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