

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 667

To expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 16, 2007

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

A BILL

To expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, 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 AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—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 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as fol-
25 lows:

1 (1) To enable States to deliver services under
2 early childhood home visitation programs to preg-
3 nant women and parents of children from birth until
4 entry into kindergarten in order to promote parents'
5 ability to support their children's optimal cognitive,
6 language, social-emotional, and physical develop-
7 ment.

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 early childhood home visitation
12 programs so as to more effectively reach and serve
13 families with English language learners.

14 (4) To expand early childhood visitation pro-
15 grams so as to more effectively reach and serve fam-
16 ilies serving in the military.

17 (5) To establish a public education and aware-
18 ness campaign concerning the importance of the
19 proper care of infants and young children.

20 (6) To make available for parents of newborn
21 children parenting classes that convey information
22 about the importance of proper care for newborns,
23 including information about symptoms of abusive
24 head and other injuries.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) **ELIGIBLE FAMILY.**—The term “eligible
4 family” means—

5 (A) a woman who is pregnant, and the fa-
6 ther of the child if the father is available; or

7 (B) a parent or primary caregiver of a
8 child, including grandparents or other relatives
9 of the child, and foster parents, who are serving
10 as the primary caregiver from birth until entry
11 into kindergarten, including a noncustodial par-
12 ent during periods in which such noncustodial
13 parent is physically caring for such child.

14 (2) **HOME VISITATION.**—The term “home visi-
15 tation” means services provided in the permanent or
16 temporary residence, or in a mutually agreed upon
17 location in the community, of the individual receiv-
18 ing such services.

19 (3) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe”
20 has the meaning given such term in section 4(e) of
21 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-
22 ance Act (52 U.S.C. 450(b)(e)).

23 (4) **SECRETARY.**—Except as provided in section
24 7, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of
25 Health and Human Services.

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

4 (6) TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—The
 5 term “territories and possessions” means American
 6 Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
 7 Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Is-
 8 lands.

9 (7) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “tribal
 10 organization” has the meaning given such term in
 11 section 4(l) of the Indian Self-Determination and
 12 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b(l)).

13 **SEC. 4. STATE GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME VISI-**
 14 **TATION.**

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

21 (b) DETERMINATION OF RESERVATIONS; AMOUNT OF
 22 ALLOTMENTS; AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

23 (1) RESERVATIONS FROM APPROPRIATIONS.—
 24 From the total amount made available to carry out

1 this section for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall re-
2 serve—

3 (A) 3 percent for an independent evalua-
4 tion of the activities carried out under this Act,
5 as specified in section 8;

6 (B) not more than 3 percent for Federal
7 administrative costs;

8 (C) 2 percent for training and technical as-
9 sistance for States;

10 (D) not more than 2 percent for payments
11 to Indian tribes and tribal organizations with
12 applications approved under this section; and

13 (E) not more than 0.5 percent for pay-
14 ments to territories and possessions with appli-
15 cations approved under this section.

16 (2) STATE ALLOTMENTS FOR EARLY CHILD-
17 HOOD HOME VISITATION.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with
19 subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allot
20 among each of the eligible States the total
21 amount made available to carry out this section
22 for any fiscal year and not reserved under para-
23 graph (1), to carry out early childhood home
24 visitation in accordance with this section.

1 (B) DETERMINATION OF STATE ALLOT-
 2 MENTS.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause
 4 (ii), the Secretary shall allot the amount
 5 made available under subparagraph (A) for
 6 a fiscal year among the States in propor-
 7 tion to the number of children, aged from
 8 birth to 5 years, who reside within the
 9 State, compared to the number of such in-
 10 dividuals who reside in all such States for
 11 that fiscal year.

12 (ii) EXCEPTION.—No State receiving
 13 an allotment under clause (i) may receive
 14 more than \$20,000,000.

15 (3) INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS,
 16 TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—

17 (A) INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANI-
 18 ZATIONS.—From amounts reserved for each fis-
 19 cal year under paragraph (1)(D), the Secretary
 20 shall make payments to each Indian tribe or
 21 tribal organizations with an application ap-
 22 proved under this section in an amount deter-
 23 mined in accordance with the respective needs
 24 described in the application.

1 (B) TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—

2 From amounts reserved for each fiscal year
 3 under paragraph (1)(E), the Secretary shall
 4 make payments to each territory and possession
 5 with an application approved under this section
 6 in an amount determined in accordance with
 7 the respective needs described in the applica-
 8 tion.

9 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 11 this section \$400,000,000 for the period of fiscal
 12 years 2008 through 2010.

13 (c) GRANT APPLICATIONS.—

14 (1) STATE APPLICATIONS.—A State that de-
 15 sires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
 16 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
 17 such manner, and containing such information as
 18 the Secretary may require. The application shall
 19 contain the following information:

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

1 (B) An assurance that the State will re-
2 serve 3 percent of such grant for evaluation and
3 will participate in the independent evaluation
4 under section 8.

5 (C) An assurance that the State will re-
6 serve 10 percent of the grant funds for training
7 and technical assistance of staff of programs of
8 early childhood home visitation.

9 (D) An assurance that the State will au-
10 thorize child care resource and referral agencies
11 to refer parents seeking home visitation serv-
12 ices.

13 (E) The results of a statewide needs as-
14 sessment that describes—

15 (i) the quality and capacity of existing
16 programs of early childhood home visita-
17 tion in the State;

18 (ii) the number and types of eligible
19 families who are receiving services under
20 such programs; and

21 (iii) the gaps in early childhood home
22 visitation in the State.

23 (F) A State plan containing the following:

24 (i) A description of the State's strat-
25 egy to establish or expand quality pro-

grams of early childhood home visitation to serve all eligible families in the State.

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

(iii) A description of how the proposed program of early childhood home visitation will promote positive parenting skills and children's early learning and development.

(iv) A description of how the proposed program of early childhood home visitation will incorporate the authorized activities described in subsection (f).

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

(vi) How the lead State agency will promote channels of communication between staff of programs of early childhood

1 home visitation and staff of other early
2 childhood education programs, such as
3 Head Start programs carried out under
4 the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et
5 seq.) and Early Head Start programs car-
6 ried out under section 645A of such Act,
7 preschool programs, and child care pro-
8 grams, to facilitate the coordination of
9 services for eligible families.

10 (vii) How the lead State agency will
11 provide training and technical assistance to
12 staff of programs of early childhood home
13 visitation involved in activities under this
14 section to more effectively meet the needs
15 of the eligible families served with sensi-
16 tivity to cultural variations in parenting
17 norms and attitudes toward formal support
18 services.

19 (viii) How the lead State agency will
20 evaluate the activities supported under this
21 section in order to demonstrate outcomes
22 related to the enhancement of—

23 (I) parent knowledge of early
24 learning and development;

1 (II) child health, cognitive, lan-
2 guage, social-emotional, and physical
3 development indicators;

4 (III) child maltreatment indica-
5 tors for child abuse and neglect pre-
6 vention;

7 (IV) school readiness indicators;
8 and

9 (V) links to community services.

10 (ix) A description of how the lead
11 State agency will ensure that the home vis-
12 itation programs will conduct outreach ac-
13 tivities to target both mothers and fathers,
14 and increase father involvement where ap-
15 propriate.

16 (x) A description of how the lead
17 State agency will increase home visitation
18 programs participation rates for fathers.

19 (xi) A description of how the lead
20 State agency will ensure that services are
21 made available under the program to
22 grandparents, other relatives or foster par-
23 ents, of a child from birth through age 5
24 who serve as the primary caregiver of the
25 child.

1 (G) Such other information as the Sec-
2 retary may require.

3 (2) INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS,
4 TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe, tribal
6 organization, territory, or possession that de-
7 sires to receive a grant under this section shall
8 submit an application to the Secretary at such
9 time, in such manner, and containing such in-
10 formation as the Secretary may require. The
11 application shall contain the information de-
12 scribed in paragraph (1) with respect to the ap-
13 plicant entity.

14 (B) APPROVAL.—The Secretary may ap-
15 prove an application submitted under subpara-
16 graph (A) based on the quality of the informa-
17 tion contained in the application.

18 (C) EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary may ex-
19 empt an applicant under subparagraph (A)
20 from any requirement of this section if the Sec-
21 retary determines that the application of such
22 requirements would be inappropriate taking
23 into consideration the resources, needs, and
24 other circumstances of the applicant entity.
25 This subparagraph shall not apply to the re-

1 quirements described in subsections (f)(1) and
2 (h).

3 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

4 (1) RECOMMENDATION OF PANEL.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
6 prove an application under this section based on
7 the recommendations of a peer review panel, as
8 described in paragraph (2).

9 (B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—A peer review
10 panel shall determine which applicants to rec-
11 ommend for approval, for purposes of subpara-
12 graph (A), based on the quality of the applica-
13 tion submitted. Consideration shall be given by
14 the panel to the inclusion of applicants, to the
15 extent practicable, that have the ability to in-
16 corporate comparison or control groups in their
17 service deliver model, recognizing that universal
18 access to home visitation services, among other
19 factors, may prevent some quality programs
20 from conducting such evaluation.

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

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

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

3 (C) 1 individual with experience imple-
4 menting a statewide program of early childhood
5 home visitation;

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

9 (E) 1 individual with experience in admin-
10 istering public or private (including community-
11 based) child maltreatment prevention programs.

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 as many eligible families in the
17 State as practicable, voluntary early childhood home
18 visitation, on not less frequently than a monthly
19 basis with greater frequency of services for those eli-
20 gible families identified with additional needs,
21 through the implementation of quality programs of
22 early childhood home visitation that—

23 (A) adopts a clear, consistent model that is
24 grounded in empirically-based knowledge re-

1 lated to home visiting and linked to program-
2 determined outcomes;

3 (B) employs well-trained and competent
4 staff, as demonstrated by education or training,
5 and the provision of ongoing and specific train-
6 ing on the model being delivered;

7 (C) maintains high quality supervision to
8 establish home visitor competencies;

9 (D) demonstrates strong organizational ca-
10 pacity to implement the program involved;

11 (E) establishes appropriate linkages and
12 referral networks to other community resources
13 and supports;

14 (F) monitors fidelity of program implemen-
15 tation to ensure that services are delivered pur-
16 suant to the specified model;

17 (G) are research-based, that provide par-
18 ents with—

19 (i) knowledge of age appropriate child
20 development in cognitive, language, social-
21 emotional, and motor domains;

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

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

1 (iv) modeling and consulting services
2 related to parenting;

3 (v) skills to interact with their child to
4 enhance age-appropriate development;

5 (vi) skills to recognize and seek help
6 for health issues and developmental delays,
7 and social, emotional, and behavioral skills;

8 (vii) activities designed to help par-
9 ents become full partners in the education
10 of their children; and

11 (viii) relevant information, consistent
12 with State child welfare agency training,
13 concerning child welfare and protective
14 services resources if appropriate;

15 (H) ascertain which developmental services
16 the family receives and work with service pro-
17 viders to eliminate gaps in services by offering
18 annual health, vision, hearing, and develop-
19 mental screening for children from birth until
20 entry into kindergarten, when not otherwise
21 provided;

22 (I) provide referrals for eligible families, as
23 needed, to additional resources available in the
24 community, such as center-based early edu-
25 cation programs, child care services, health or

1 mental health services, family literacy pro-
2 grams, employment agencies, social services,
3 and child care resource and referral agencies;

4 (J) offer group meetings (at the discretion
5 of the program involved) for eligible families
6 that—

7 (i) further enhance the information,
8 activities, and skill-building addressed dur-
9 ing home visitation; and

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

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

17 (i) effective methods of conducting
18 parent education, home visiting, and pro-
19 moting quality early childhood develop-
20 ment;

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

1 (iii) early childhood development with
 2 respect to children from birth until entry
 3 into kindergarten;

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

7 (v) health, vision, hearing, and devel-
 8 opmental screenings;

9 (vi) strategies for helping eligible fam-
 10 ilies with special needs or those eligible
 11 families coping with crisis;

12 (vii) recruiting, supervising, and re-
 13 taining qualified staff;

14 (viii) increasing services for under-
 15 served populations;

16 (ix) methods to help parents effec-
 17 tively respond to their children's needs and
 18 behaviors; and

19 (x) implementation of ongoing pro-
 20 gram quality improvement and evaluation
 21 of activities and outcomes;

22 (L) ensure coordination of programs of
 23 early childhood home visitation, early childhood
 24 education and care, and early intervention,

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

3 (i) representatives from relevant State
4 agencies, including the State agency re-
5 sponsible for carrying out the plan under
6 section 106 of the Child Abuse Prevention
7 and Treatment Act;

8 (ii) representatives from State Head
9 Start Associations;

10 (iii) the State official with responsi-
11 bility for carrying out activities under part
12 C of the Individuals with Disabilities Edu-
13 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.);

14 (iv) the State official with responsi-
15 bility for carrying out activities under sec-
16 tion 619 of the Individuals with Disabil-
17 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1419);

18 (v) representatives from child care re-
19 source and referral State offices;

20 (vi) representatives from quality pro-
21 grams of early childhood home visitation;
22 and

23 (vii) a board certified pediatrician or a
24 developmental pediatrician; and

1 (M) not expend more than 5 percent of the
2 amount of grant funds received under this sec-
3 tion for the administration of the grant, includ-
4 ing planning, administration, evaluation, and
5 annual reporting.

6 (g) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—A State is entitled
7 to receive its full allotment of funds under this section for
8 any fiscal year if the Secretary finds that the aggregate
9 expenditures within the State for quality programs of
10 early childhood home visitation, for the fiscal year pre-
11 ceding the fiscal year for which the determination is made
12 was not less than 100 percent of such aggregate expendi-
13 tures for the second fiscal year preceding the fiscal year
14 for which the determination is made.

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

20 (1) the actual services delivered under the
21 grant, including—

22 (A) the program characteristics, including
23 descriptive information on the service models
24 used and the actual program performance;

1 (B) the characteristics of the providers in-
 2 volved, including staff qualifications, work expe-
 3 rience, and demographic characteristics; and

4 (C) the characteristics of the recipient of
 5 services under the program, including the num-
 6 ber of recipients, their demographic characteris-
 7 tics, and family retention;

8 (2) recipient outcomes that are consistent with
 9 program goals, including, where appropriate based
 10 on the outcomes being evaluated a description of—

11 (A) affected parental practices;

12 (B) child health, cognitive, language, so-
 13 cial-emotional, and physical developmental indi-
 14 cators;

15 (C) child maltreatment indicators, includ-
 16 ing prevention strategies;

17 (D) school readiness indicators; and

18 (E) links to community services;

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

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

24 (A) to staff supported under the grant;

25 and

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

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

6 (6) the annual program implementation costs,
 7 including the cost for each family served under the
 8 program.

9 **SEC. 5. STRENGTHENING EARLY HEAD START HOME VISI-**
 10 **TATION.**

11 Section 645A of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C.
 12 9840a) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

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

22 (B) in paragraph (5)—

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

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

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

6 (D) by inserting after paragraph (6) the
7 following:

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

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

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

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

1 moting quality early childhood develop-
 2 ment.”; and

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

4 “(h) STAFF QUALIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT.—

5 “(1) HOME VISITOR STAFF.—

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

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

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

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

1 “(iii) early childhood development
 2 with respect to children from birth through
 3 age 3;

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

7 “(v) ascertaining what health and de-
 8 velopmental services the family involved re-
 9 ceives and working with the service pro-
 10 viders to eliminate gaps in services by of-
 11 fering annual health, vision, hearing, and
 12 developmental screenings for children from
 13 birth through entry into kindergarten,
 14 when needed;

15 “(vi) strategies for helping families
 16 coping with crisis; and

17 “(vii) the relationship of health and
 18 well-being of pregnant women to prenatal
 19 and early child development.”.

20 **SEC. 6. TARGETED GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME**
 21 **VISITATION FOR FAMILIES WITH ENGLISH**
 22 **LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration
 24 with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants, on
 25 a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to enable such

1 applicants to support and expand local efforts to deliver
 2 services under quality programs of early childhood home
 3 visitation, to eligible families with English language learn-
 4 ers.

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

7 (1) 1 or more local educational agencies (as de-
 8 fined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Sec-
 9 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));
 10 and

11 (2) 1 or more public or private community-
 12 based organizations or agencies that serve eligible
 13 families and are capable of establishing and imple-
 14 menting programs of early childhood home visita-
 15 tion.

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 at such time, in such manner,
 19 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
 20 quire. The application shall include a description of—

21 (1) the results of a community wide needs as-
 22 sessment that describes—

23 (A) community demographics dem-
 24 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
 25 eligible families with English language learners;

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

4 (C) the gaps in programs of early child-
5 hood home visitation for eligible families with
6 English language learners; and

7 (D) the type of program of early childhood
8 home visitation necessary to address the gaps
9 identified;

10 (2) the program of early childhood home visita-
11 tion that will be supported by the grant under this
12 section;

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

16 (4) how the proposed program of early child-
17 hood home visitation will incorporate the authorized
18 activities described in subsection (f);

19 (5) how services provided through a grant
20 under this section will use materials that are geared
21 toward eligible families with English language learn-
22 ers;

23 (6) how the activities under this section will
24 build upon and promote coordination among existing
25 programs of early childhood home visitation, if such

1 programs exist in the community, in an effort to
2 promote an array of home visitation that ensures
3 more eligible families with English language learners
4 are being served and are getting the most appropriate
5 services to meet their needs;

6 (7) how the program will ensure that—

7 (A) eligible families with English language
8 learners are linked to schools; and

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

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

21 (9) how eligible families with English language
22 learners will be recruited and retained to receive
23 services under this section;

24 (10) how training and technical assistance will
25 help the staff of programs of early childhood home

1 visitation involved in activities under this section to
 2 more effectively serve eligible families with English
 3 language learners;

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

7 (A) increase in number of eligible families
 8 with English language learners served by pro-
 9 grams of early childhood home visitation;

10 (B) enhancement of participating parents’
 11 knowledge of early learning and development;

12 (C) enhancement of positive parenting
 13 practices related to early learning and develop-
 14 ment; and

15 (D) enhancement of children’s cognitive,
 16 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
 17 opment; and

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

20 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

3 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
4 field of home visitation;

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

7 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in serv-
8 ing eligible families with English language
9 learners;

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

13 (E) 1 individual with experience in admin-
14 istering public or private (including community-
15 based) child maltreatment prevention programs.

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

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

21 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
22 English language learners as practicable, voluntary
23 early childhood home visitation, on not less fre-
24 quently than a monthly basis, through the imple-
25 mentation of other quality programs of early child-

1 hood home visitation that are research-based, that
2 provide parents 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 so-
16 cial, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

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

20 (2) Activities to ascertain what health and de-
21 velopmental services families receive and working
22 with service providers to eliminate gaps in service by
23 offering an annual health, vision, hearing, and devel-
24 opmental screening for children from birth through
25 their entry into kindergarten.

1 (3) Providing referrals for participating eligible
2 families with English language learners, as needed,
3 to additional resources available in the community,
4 such as center-based early education programs, child
5 care services, health or mental health services, fam-
6 ily literacy programs, employment agencies, social
7 services, and child care resource and referral agen-
8 cies.

9 (4) Offering group meetings (at program dis-
10 cretion), on not less frequently than a monthly basis,
11 for eligible families with English language learners
12 that—

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

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

18 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
19 lies with English language learners.

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

23 (A) effective service to eligible families
24 with English language learners, including skills

1 to address challenges facing English language
2 learners;

3 (B) effective methods of implementing par-
4 ent education, conducting home visitation, and
5 promoting quality early childhood development,
6 with sensitivity to cultural variations in par-
7 enting norms and attitudes toward formal sup-
8 port services;

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 English language learners
20 coping with a crisis;

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

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

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 English language learners.

11 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The recipient of a
 12 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
 13 annual report concerning the progress of the program con-
 14 ducted by the recipient in addressing the purposes of this
 15 Act. Each such report shall, at a minimum, include a de-
 16 scription of—

17 (1) the actual service delivery provided for
 18 under the grant, including—

19 (A) program characteristics that include
 20 descriptive information on the service model
 21 used under the program and actual program
 22 performance;

23 (B) the characteristics of service providers
 24 under the program that include staff qualifica-

1 tions, work experience, and demographic char-
2 acteristics;

3 (C) the characteristics of recipients of serv-
4 ices under the program that include the num-
5 ber, demographic characteristics, and family re-
6 tention under the program; and

7 (D) an estimate of the annual program im-
8 plementation costs;

9 (2) with respect to recipients of services under
10 the program, whether such services were provided in
11 a manner consistent with program goals including,
12 where appropriate—

13 (A) parental practices;

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

16 (C) child maltreatment indicators;

17 (D) school readiness indicators; and

18 (E) links to community services;

19 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
20 and activities being used in the activities conducted
21 under the program; and

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

24 (A) to the staff supported under the pro-
25 gram; and

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

3 (h) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds
 4 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,
 5 and not supplant, Federal and non-Federal funds available
 6 for 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 2008 through
 10 2010.

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

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in col-
 14 laboration with the Secretary of Education, shall make
 15 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to en-
 16 able such applicants to support and expand efforts to de-
 17 liver services under quality programs of early childhood
 18 home visitation, to eligible families with a family member
 19 in the Armed Forces.

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

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

1 (2) A school of the defense dependents' edu-
2 cation system under the Defense Dependents' Edu-
3 cation Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.).

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

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

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 of Defense at such time, in
11 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
12 retary of Defense may require. The application shall in-
13 clude a description of—

14 (1) the results of a community wide needs as-
15 sessment that describes—

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

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

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

4 (D) the type of program of early childhood
5 home visitation necessary to address the gaps
6 identified;

7 (2) the program of early childhood home visita-
8 tion that will be supported by the grant under this
9 section;

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

13 (4) how the proposed program of early child-
14 hood home visitation will incorporate the authorized
15 activities described in subsection (f);

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

20 (6) how the activities under this section will
21 build on and promote coordination with existing pro-
22 grams of early childhood home visitation, if such
23 programs exist in the community, in an effort to
24 promote an array of home visitation that ensures
25 more eligible families with a family member in the

1 Armed Forces are being served and are getting the
2 most appropriate services to meet their needs;

3 (7) how the program will ensure that—

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

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

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

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

22 (10) how training and technical assistance will
23 help staff of programs of early childhood home visi-
24 tation involved in activities under this section to

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

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

6 (A) increase in number of eligible families
7 with a family member in the Armed Forces
8 served by programs of early childhood home vis-
9 itation;

10 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
11 knowledge of early learning and development;

12 (C) enhancement of positive parenting
13 practices related to early learning and develop-
14 ment; and

15 (D) enhancement of children's cognitive,
16 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
17 opment; and

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

20 (d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

3 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
4 field of home visitation;

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

7 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in family
8 support for military families;

9 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
10 pediatrician; and

11 (E) 1 individual with expertise in admin-
12 istering public or private (including community-
13 based) child maltreatment prevention programs;
14 and

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 as many eligible families with
21 a family member in the Armed Forces as prac-
22 ticable, voluntary early childhood home visitation, on
23 not less frequently than a monthly basis, through
24 the implementation of quality programs of early

1 childhood home visitation that are research-based,
 2 that provide parents 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 so-
 16 cial, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

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

20 (2) Ascertaining what health and development
 21 services the family receives under the program and
 22 working with service providers to eliminate gaps in
 23 service by offering 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 (at the discretion
10 of the program), on not less frequently than a
11 monthly basis, for eligible families with a family
12 member in the Armed Forces that—

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

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

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

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

23 (A) effective service to eligible families
24 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, with sensitivity to
4 cultural variations in parenting norms and atti-
5 tudes toward formal support services;

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

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

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

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

18 (G) recruiting, supervising, and retaining
19 qualified staff;

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

23 (I) methods to help parents effectively re-
24 spond to their children's needs and behaviors;
25 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) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The recipient of a
 9 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
 10 annual report concerning the progress of the program con-
 11 ducted by the recipient in addressing the purposes of this
 12 Act. Each such report shall, at a minimum, include a de-
 13 scription of—

14 (1) the actual service delivery provided for
 15 under the grant, including—

16 (A) program characteristics that include
 17 descriptive information on the service model
 18 used under the program and actual program
 19 performance;

20 (B) the characteristics of service providers
 21 under the program that include staff qualifica-
 22 tions, work experience, and demographic char-
 23 acteristics;

24 (C) the characteristics of recipients of serv-
 25 ices under the program that include the num-

1 ber, demographic characteristics, and family re-
 2 tention under the program; and

3 (D) an estimate of the annual program im-
 4 plementation costs;

5 (2) with respect to recipients of services under
 6 the program, whether such services were provided in
 7 a manner consistent with program goals including,
 8 where appropriate—

9 (A) parental practices;

10 (B) child health and development indica-
 11 tors;

12 (C) child maltreatment indicators;

13 (D) school readiness indicators; and

14 (E) links to community services;

15 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
 16 and activities being used in the activities conducted
 17 under the program; and

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

20 (A) to the staff supported under the pro-
 21 gram; and

22 (B) to the affected early childhood commu-
 23 nity.

24 (h) 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 (i) 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 2008 through
6 2010.

7 **SEC. 8. EVALUATION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—From funds reserved under sec-
9 tion 6(b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall conduct an inde-
10 pendent evaluation of the effectiveness of this Act.

11 (b) REPORTS.—

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

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

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

1 (1) How the grant funds have expanded access
2 to early childhood home visitation in a manner that
3 demonstrates that programs under this Act reflect
4 the quality indicators under this Act.

5 (2) How the States are documenting compliance
6 with the service delivery indicators under this Act
7 across all entities carrying out programs under this
8 Act with emphasis on the number of families served
9 and the level of service received.

10 (3) How the services provided under State pro-
11 grams affect outcomes consistent with programs
12 goals, including, where appropriate based on the
13 program being evaluated, parenting practices, child
14 health and development, child maltreatment, school
15 readiness, and links to community services.

16 (4) The effectiveness of early childhood home
17 visitation on different populations, including the ex-
18 tent to which variability exists in program ability to
19 improve outcomes across programs and populations,
20 such as families with English language learners and
21 families with a family member in the Armed Forces.

22 (5) The effectiveness of the training and tech-
23 nical assistance activities funded under this Act, in-
24 cluding the effects of training and technical assist-

1 ance activities on program performance and agency-
2 level collaboration.

3 (6) Recommendations on strengthening or
4 modifying this Act.

5 **SEC. 9. SUPPORTING NEW PARENTS THROUGH HOSPITAL**
6 **EDUCATION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
9 retary”) shall develop and implement a public information
10 and educational campaign to inform the public and new
11 parents about the importance of proper care for infants
12 and children under 5 years of age, including healthy par-
13 ent-child relationships, the demands and stress associated
14 with caring for infants, positive responses to infants’ chal-
15 lenging behaviors including awareness of their social, emo-
16 tional, and physical needs, awareness of the vulnerability
17 of young children to abusive practices, and the signs and
18 treatment of post-partum depression.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The campaign developed
21 under subsection (a) shall include the following ele-
22 ments:

23 (A) The dissemination of educational and
24 informational materials in print, audio, video,
25 electronic, and other media.

1 (B) The use of public service announce-
2 ments and advertisements.

3 (C) The dissemination of effective child
4 abuse prevention practices and techniques, in-
5 cluding information about research-based home
6 visiting programs, respite care, crisis nurseries,
7 and parent support networks, to parents, care-
8 givers, maternity hospitals, children's hospitals,
9 pediatricians, child care centers, organizations
10 providing prenatal and postnatal care, and or-
11 ganizations providing parenting education and
12 support services.

13 (D) Connection to existing parental in-
14 volvement programs.

15 (2) PREVENTION PRACTICES.—In carrying out
16 paragraph (1)(C) through the campaign under sub-
17 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that every
18 hospital, military hospital, and birth center receiving
19 these materials requests that each maternity patient
20 and father of a newborn child, if available, partici-
21 pate in a single session parenting class, that is ap-
22 proved by the Secretary, on the vulnerabilities of
23 their infant to abusive practices, as well as the im-
24 portance of proper care for infants and young chil-
25 dren, and the symptoms of abusive head and other

1 injuries, and strategies for caring for infants' social,
 2 emotional, and physical needs. After participating in
 3 the class, the hospital or birth center shall request
 4 that such patient or father sign a form stating that
 5 they have participated or refused to participate in
 6 the parenting class.

7 (3) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The implementation
 8 and execution of the public information and edu-
 9 cational campaign under this section should seek col-
 10 laboration with and referrals to existing parental in-
 11 volvement programs that specialize in strengthening
 12 children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social
 13 or emotional and physical development and existing
 14 prenatal and early childhood home visit programs.

15 (4) EXISTING STATE REQUIREMENTS.—The im-
 16 plementation and execution of the public information
 17 and educational campaign under this section should
 18 encourage the Secretary to work with pre-existing
 19 State requirements to ensure that no unnecessary
 20 burdens are placed on hospitals, military hospitals,
 21 and birth centers receiving educational materials.

22 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 23 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
 24 essary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2008.

○