

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 244

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

JANUARY 14, 2009

Mr. BOND (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, 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 PURPOSES.**

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 teachers;

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 (25 U.S.C. 450b(e)).

23 (4) **SECRETARY.**—Except as provided in section
24 6, 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 7;

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 programs of early child-
 24 hood home visitation in accordance with this
 25 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 organization with an application approved
22 under this section in an amount determined in
23 accordance with the respective needs described
24 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 2010 through 2012.

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 7.

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 (or
11 the lead entity designated by the State for
12 a grant under title II of the Child Abuse
13 Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C.
14 5116 et seq.)) will provide training and
15 technical assistance to staff of programs of
16 early childhood home visitation involved in
17 activities under this section to more effec-
18 tively meet the needs of the eligible fami-
19 lies served with sensitivity to cultural vari-
20 ations in parenting norms and attitudes to-
21 ward formal support services.

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

1 (I) parent knowledge of early
2 learning and development;

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

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

9 (IV) school readiness indicators;
10 and

11 (V) links to community services.

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

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

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

1 who serve as the primary caregiver of the
2 child.

3 (G) Such other information as the Sec-
4 retary may require.

5 (2) INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS,
6 TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS.—

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

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

20 (C) EXEMPTIONS.—The Secretary may ex-
21 empt an applicant under subparagraph (A)
22 from any requirement of this section if the Sec-
23 retary determines that the application of such
24 requirements would be inappropriate taking
25 into consideration the resources, needs, and

1 other circumstances of the applicant entity.

2 This subparagraph shall not apply to the re-
3 quirements described in subsections (f) and (h).

4 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

5 (1) RECOMMENDATION OF PANEL.—

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

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

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

24 (A) 3 individuals who are experts in the
25 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 other quality pro-
22 grams of early childhood home visitation that—

23 (A) adopt 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) employ 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) maintain high quality supervision to
8 establish home visitor competencies;

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

11 (E) establish appropriate linkages and re-
12 ferral networks to other community resources
13 and supports;

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

17 (G) are research-based and provide parents
18 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 (2) ascertain which developmental services the
 16 family receives and work with service providers to
 17 eliminate gaps in services by offering annual health,
 18 vision, hearing, and developmental screening for chil-
 19 dren from birth until entry into kindergarten, when
 20 not otherwise provided;

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

1 cies, social services, and child care resource and re-
2 ferral agencies;

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

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

8 (B) offer opportunities for parents to meet
9 with and support each other;

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

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

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

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

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

4 (E) health, vision, hearing, and develop-
 5 mental screenings;

6 (F) strategies for helping eligible families
 7 with special needs or those eligible families cop-
 8 ing with crisis;

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

11 (H) increasing services for underserved
 12 populations;

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

16 (J) implementation of ongoing program
 17 quality improvement and evaluation of activities
 18 and outcomes;

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

24 (A) representatives from relevant State
 25 agencies, including the State agency responsible

1 for carrying out the plan under section 106 of
2 the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 5106a);

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

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

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

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

16 (F) representatives from quality programs
17 of early childhood home visitation; and

18 (G) a board certified pediatrician or a de-
19 velopmental pediatrician; and

20 (7) not expend more than 5 percent of the
21 amount of grant funds received under this section
22 for the administration of the grant, including plan-
23 ning, administration, evaluation, and annual report-
24 ing.

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

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

15 (1) the actual services delivered under the
 16 grant, including—

17 (A) the program characteristics, including
 18 descriptive information on the service models
 19 used and the actual program performance;

20 (B) the characteristics of the providers in-
 21 volved, including staff qualifications, work expe-
 22 rience, and demographic characteristics; and

23 (C) the characteristics of the recipients of
 24 services under the program, including the num-

1 ber and demographic characteristics of the re-
 2 cipients and family retention;

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

6 (A) affected parental practices;

7 (B) child health, cognitive, language, so-
 8 cial-emotional, and physical developmental indi-
 9 cators;

10 (C) child maltreatment indicators, includ-
 11 ing prevention strategies;

12 (D) school readiness indicators; and

13 (E) links to community services;

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

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

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

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

23 (5) beginning at the end of the second year of
 24 the grant, the results of evaluations described in
 25 subsection (c)(1)(F)(viii); and

1 (6) the annual program implementation costs,
 2 including the cost for each family served under the
 3 program.

4 **SEC. 5. TARGETED GRANTS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD HOME**
 5 **VISITATION FOR FAMILIES WITH ENGLISH**
 6 **LANGUAGE LEARNERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in collaboration
 8 with the Secretary of Education, shall make grants, on
 9 a competitive basis, to eligible applicants to enable such
 10 applicants to support and expand local efforts to deliver
 11 services under quality programs of early childhood home
 12 visitation, to eligible families with English language learn-
 13 ers.

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

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

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

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

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

8 (A) community demographics dem-
 9 onstrating the need for outreach and services to
 10 eligible families with English language learners;

11 (B) the quality and capacity of existing
 12 programs of early childhood home visitation for
 13 eligible families with English language learners;

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

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

16 (7) how the program will ensure that—

17 (A) eligible families with English language
18 learners 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, such as Head Start pro-
25 grams carried out under the Head Start Act (42

1 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and Early Head Start pro-
2 grams carried out under section 645A of such Act,
3 preschool programs, and child care programs, to fa-
4 cilitate the coordination of services for eligible fami-
5 lies with English language learners;

6 (9) how eligible families with English language
7 learners will be recruited and retained to receive
8 services under this section;

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

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

17 (A) increase in number of eligible families
18 with English language learners served by pro-
19 grams of early childhood home visitation;

20 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
21 knowledge of early learning and development;

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

1 (D) enhancement of children’s cognitive,
2 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
3 opment; and

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

6 (d) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

14 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
15 field of home visitation;

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

18 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in serv-
19 ing eligible families with English language
20 learners;

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

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

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

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

9 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
 10 English language learners as practicable, voluntary
 11 early childhood home visitation, on not less fre-
 12 quently than a monthly basis, through the imple-
 13 mentation of other quality programs of early child-
 14 hood home visitation that are research-based and
 15 that provide parents with—

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

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

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

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

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

3 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 4 health issues and developmental delays, and so-
 5 cial, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

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

9 (2) Ascertaining what health and developmental
 10 services eligible families with English language
 11 learners receive and working with service providers
 12 to eliminate gaps in service by offering an annual
 13 health, vision, hearing, and developmental screening
 14 for children from birth through their entry into kin-
 15 dergarten.

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

24 (4) Offering group meetings (at the discretion
 25 of the program involved), on not less frequently than

1 a monthly basis, for eligible families with English
2 language learners that—

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

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

8 (C) address challenges facing eligible fami-
9 lies with English language learners.

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

13 (A) effective service to eligible families
14 with English language learners, including skills
15 to address challenges facing English language
16 learners;

17 (B) effective methods of implementing par-
18 ent education, conducting home visitation, and
19 promoting quality early childhood development,
20 with sensitivity to cultural variations in par-
21 enting norms and attitudes toward formal sup-
22 port services;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The recipient of a
 25 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an

1 annual report concerning the progress of the program con-
2 ducted by the recipient in addressing the purposes of this
3 Act. Each such report shall, at a minimum, include a de-
4 scription of—

5 (1) the actual service delivery provided for
6 under the grant, including—

7 (A) program characteristics that include
8 descriptive information on the service model
9 used under the program and actual program
10 performance;

11 (B) the characteristics of service providers
12 under the program that include staff qualifica-
13 tions, work experience, and demographic char-
14 acteristics;

15 (C) the characteristics of recipients of serv-
16 ices under the program, including the number
17 and demographic characteristics of the recipi-
18 ents and family retention; and

19 (D) an estimate of the annual program im-
20 plementation costs;

21 (2) with respect to recipients of services under
22 the program, whether such services were provided in
23 a manner consistent with program goals including,
24 where appropriate—

25 (A) parental practices;

1 (B) child health and development indica-
 2 tors;

3 (C) child maltreatment indicators;

4 (D) school readiness indicators; and

5 (E) links to community services;

6 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
 7 and activities being used in the activities conducted
 8 under the program; and

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

11 (A) to the staff supported under the pro-
 12 gram; and

13 (B) to the affected early childhood commu-
 14 nity.

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

19 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 21 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2010 through
 22 2012.

1 **SEC. 6. 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 quality programs of early childhood
 8 home visitation, to eligible families with a family member
 9 in the Armed Forces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 retary of Defense may require. The application shall in-
2 clude a description of—

3 (1) the results of a community wide needs as-
4 essment that describes—

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

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

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

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

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

22 (3) how the proposed program of early child-
23 hood home visitation will promote positive parenting
24 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
9 build on and promote coordination with existing pro-
10 grams of early childhood home visitation, if such
11 programs exist in the community, in an effort to
12 promote an array of home visitation that ensures
13 more eligible families with a family member in the
14 Armed Forces are being served and are getting the
15 most appropriate 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, such as Head State pro-
25 grams carried out under the Head Start Act (42

1 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.) and Early Health State pro-
2 grams carried out under section 645A of such Act,
3 preschool programs, family support programs, and
4 child care programs, to facilitate the coordination of
5 services for eligible families with a family member in
6 the Armed Forces;

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

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

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

18 (A) increase in number of eligible families
19 with a family member in the Armed Forces
20 served by programs of early childhood home vis-
21 itation;

22 (B) enhancement of participating parents'
23 knowledge of early learning and development;

1 (C) enhancement of positive parenting
 2 practices related to early learning and develop-
 3 ment; and

4 (D) enhancement of children's cognitive,
 5 language, social-emotional, and physical devel-
 6 opment; and

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

9 (d) APPROVAL OF LOCAL APPLICATIONS.—

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

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

17 (A) 2 individuals who are experts in the
 18 field of home visitation;

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

21 (C) 2 individuals who are experts in family
 22 support for military families;

23 (D) 1 individual who is a board certified
 24 pediatrician; and

1 (E) 1 individual with expertise in admin-
 2 istering public or private (including community-
 3 based) child maltreatment prevention programs;
 4 and

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

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

10 (1) Providing to as many eligible families with
 11 a family member in the Armed Forces as prac-
 12 ticable, voluntary early childhood home visitation, on
 13 not less frequently than a monthly basis, through
 14 the implementation of other quality programs of
 15 early childhood home visitation that are research-
 16 based and that provide parents with—

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

20 (B) knowledge of realistic expectations of
 21 age-appropriate child behaviors;

22 (C) knowledge of health and wellness
 23 issues for children and parents;

24 (D) modeling, consulting, and coaching on
 25 parenting practices;

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

3 (F) skills to recognize and seek help for
 4 health issues and developmental delays, and so-
 5 cial, emotional, and behavioral skills; and

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

9 (2) Ascertaining what health and development
 10 services the eligible family with a family member in
 11 the Armed Forces receives under the program and
 12 working with service providers to eliminate gaps in
 13 service by offering annual health, vision, hearing,
 14 and developmental screening for participating chil-
 15 dren.

16 (3) Providing referrals for participating eligible
 17 families with a family member in the Armed Forces,
 18 as needed, to additional resources available in the
 19 community, such as center-based early education
 20 programs, child care services, health or mental
 21 health services, family literacy programs, employ-
 22 ment agencies, social services, and child care re-
 23 source and referral agencies.

24 (4) Offering group meetings (at the discretion
 25 of the program), on not less frequently than a

1 monthly basis, for eligible families with a family
2 member in the Armed Forces that—

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

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

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

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

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

15 (B) effective methods of conducting parent
16 education, home visiting, and promoting quality
17 early childhood development, with sensitivity to
18 cultural variations in parenting norms and atti-
19 tudes toward formal support services;

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

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

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

4 (F) implementing strategies for helping eli-
 5 gible families with a family member in the
 6 Armed Forces coping with crisis;

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

9 (H) increasing services for underserved eli-
 10 gible families with a family member in the
 11 Armed Forces;

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

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

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

22 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—The recipient of a
 23 grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
 24 annual report concerning the progress of the program con-
 25 ducted by the recipient in addressing the purposes of this

1 Act. Each such report shall, at a minimum, include a de-
2 scription of—

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

5 (A) program characteristics that include
6 descriptive information on the service model
7 used under the program and actual program
8 performance;

9 (B) the characteristics of service providers
10 under the program that include staff qualifica-
11 tions, work experience, and demographic char-
12 acteristics;

13 (C) the characteristics of recipients of serv-
14 ices under the program, including the number
15 and demographic characteristics of the recipi-
16 ents and family retention; and

17 (D) an estimate of the annual program im-
18 plementation costs;

19 (2) with respect to recipients of services under
20 the program, whether such services were provided in
21 a manner consistent with program goals including,
22 where appropriate—

23 (A) parental practices;

24 (B) child health and development indica-
25 tors;

1 (C) child maltreatment indicators;

2 (D) school readiness indicators; and

3 (E) links to community services;

4 (3) the research-based instruction, materials,
5 and activities being used in the activities conducted
6 under the program; and

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

9 (A) to the staff supported under the pro-
10 gram; and

11 (B) to the affected early childhood commu-
12 nity.

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

17 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2010 through
20 2012.

21 **SEC. 7. EVALUATION.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—From funds reserved under sec-
23 tion 4(b)(1)(A), the Secretary shall conduct an inde-
24 pendent evaluation of the effectiveness of this Act.

25 (b) REPORTS.—

1 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
2 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary shall submit an interim report on the evalua-
4 tion conducted pursuant to subsection (a) to the
5 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
6 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Education
7 and Labor of the House of Representatives.

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

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

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

19 (2) How the States are documenting compliance
20 with the service delivery indicators under this Act
21 across all entities carrying out programs under this
22 Act with emphasis on the number of families served
23 and the level of service received.

24 (3) How the services provided under State pro-
25 grams affect outcomes consistent with programs

1 goals, including, where appropriate based on the
 2 program being evaluated, parenting practices, child
 3 health and development, child maltreatment, school
 4 readiness, and links to community services.

5 (4) The effectiveness of early childhood home
 6 visitation on different populations, including the ex-
 7 tent to which variability exists in program ability to
 8 improve outcomes across programs and populations,
 9 such as families with English language learners and
 10 families with a family member in the Armed Forces.

11 (5) The effectiveness of the training and tech-
 12 nical assistance activities funded under this Act, in-
 13 cluding the effects of training and technical assist-
 14 ance activities on program performance and agency-
 15 level collaboration.

16 (6) Recommendations on strengthening or
 17 modifying this Act.

18 **SEC. 8. SUPPORTING NEW PARENTS THROUGH HOSPITAL**
 19 **EDUCATION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and
 21 implement a public information and educational campaign
 22 to inform the public and new parents about the impor-
 23 tance of proper care for infants and children under 5 years
 24 of age, including healthy parent-child relationships, the de-
 25 mands and stress associated with caring for infants, posi-

1 tive responses to infants' challenging behaviors including
 2 awareness of their social, emotional, and physical needs,
 3 awareness of the vulnerability of young children to abusive
 4 practices, and the signs and treatment of post-partum de-
 5 pression.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The campaign developed
 8 under subsection (a) shall include the following ele-
 9 ments:

10 (A) The dissemination of educational and
 11 informational materials in print, audio, video,
 12 electronic, and other media.

13 (B) The use of public service announce-
 14 ments and advertisements.

15 (C) The dissemination of effective child
 16 abuse prevention practices and techniques, in-
 17 cluding information about research-based home
 18 visiting programs, respite care, crisis nurseries,
 19 and parent support networks, to parents, care-
 20 givers, maternity hospitals, children's hospitals,
 21 pediatricians, child care centers, organizations
 22 providing prenatal and postnatal care, and or-
 23 ganizations providing parenting education and
 24 support services.

1 (D) Connection to existing parental in-
2 volvement programs.

3 (2) PREVENTION PRACTICES.—In carrying out
4 paragraph (1)(C) through the campaign under sub-
5 section (a), the Secretary shall ensure that every
6 hospital, military hospital, and birth center receiving
7 these materials requests that each maternity patient
8 and father of a newborn child, if available, partici-
9 pate in a single session parenting class, that is ap-
10 proved by the Secretary, on the vulnerabilities of
11 their infant to abusive practices, as well as the im-
12 portance of proper care for infants and young chil-
13 dren, and the symptoms of abusive head and other
14 injuries, and strategies for caring for infants' social,
15 emotional, and physical needs. After participating in
16 the class, the hospital or birth center shall request
17 that such patient or father sign a form stating that
18 they have participated or refused to participate in
19 the parenting class.

20 (3) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The implementation
21 and execution of the public information and edu-
22 cational campaign under this section should seek col-
23 laboration with and referrals to existing parental in-
24 volvement programs that specialize in strengthening
25 children's cognitive skills, early literacy skills, social

1 or emotional and physical development and existing
2 prenatal and early childhood home visit programs.

3 (4) EXISTING STATE REQUIREMENTS.—The im-
4 plementation and execution of the public information
5 and educational campaign under this section should
6 encourage the Secretary to work with pre-existing
7 State requirements to ensure that no unnecessary
8 burdens are placed on hospitals, military hospitals,
9 and birth centers receiving educational materials.

10 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
12 essary to carry out this section for fiscal year 2010.

○