

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XIX, §1948, as added Pub. L. 118-42, div. G, title I, §202, Mar. 9, 2024, 138 Stat. 399.)

**SUBCHAPTER XX—BLOCK GRANTS AND PROGRAMS FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND ELDER JUSTICE**

**Editorial Notes**

**CODIFICATION**

2018—Pub. L. 115-123, div. E, title VIII, §50802(1), Feb. 9, 2018, 132 Stat. 269, substituted “AND PROGRAMS” for “TO STATES” in subchapter heading.

Pub. L. 111-148, title VI, §6703(a)(1)(A), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 782, inserted “AND ELDER JUSTICE” after “SOCIAL SERVICES” in subchapter heading.

Division A—Block Grants to States for Social Services

**§ 1397. Purposes of division; authorization of appropriations**

For the purposes of consolidating Federal assistance to States for social services into a single grant, increasing State flexibility in using social service grants, and encouraging each State, as far as practicable under the conditions in that State, to furnish services directed at the goals of—

- (1) achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce, or eliminate dependency;
- (2) achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- (3) preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
- (4) preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care, or other forms of less intensive care; and
- (5) securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate, or providing services to individuals in institutions,

there are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this division.

(Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XX, §2001, as added Pub. L. 97-35, title XXIII, §2352(a), Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 867; amended Pub. L. 111-148, title VI, §6703(d)(1), Mar. 23, 2010, 124 Stat. 803.)

**Editorial Notes**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 1397, act Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XX, §2001, as added Jan. 4, 1975, Pub. L. 93-647, §2, 88 Stat. 2337; amended June 17, 1980, Pub. L. 96-272, title II, §207(b), 94 Stat. 526, authorized appropriations to carry out former provisions of this subchapter, prior to the general revision of this subchapter by section 2352(a) of Pub. L. 97-35.

**AMENDMENTS**

2010—Pub. L. 111-148, §6703(d)(1)(B), which directed substitution of “this division” for “this subchapter” wherever appearing in subtitle 1 of title XX of act Aug. 14, 1935, was executed to the concluding provisions of

this section, which is in subtitle A of title XX of act Aug. 14, 1935, to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 111-148, §6703(d)(1)(A), substituted “division” for “subchapter” in section catchline.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

Pub. L. 97-35, title XXIII, §2354, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 874, provided that: “Except as otherwise explicitly provided, the provisions of this subtitle [subtitle C (§§2351-2355) of title XXIII of Pub. L. 97-35, see Short Title of 1981 Amendment note set out under section 1305 of this title] and the repeals and amendments made by this subtitle, shall become effective on October 1, 1981.”

**STUDY OF STATE SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS; REPORT TO CONGRESS**

Pub. L. 97-35, title XXIII, §2355, Aug. 13, 1981, 95 Stat. 874, required Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study to identify criteria and mechanisms which may be useful for States in assessing effectiveness and efficiency of State social service programs carried out with funds made available under this subchapter, such study to include consideration of Federal incentive payments as an option in rewarding States having high performance social service programs, and to report results of such study to Congress within one year after Aug. 13, 1981.

**§ 1397a. Payments to States**

**(a) Amount; covered services**

(1) Each State shall be entitled to payment under this division for each fiscal year in an amount equal to its allotment for such fiscal year, to be used by such State for services directed at the goals set forth in section 1397 of this title, subject to the requirements of this division.

(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)—

(A) services which are directed at the goals set forth in section 1397 of this title include, but are not limited to, child care services, protective services for children and adults, services for children and adults in foster care, services related to the management and maintenance of the home, day care services for adults, transportation services, family planning services, training and related services, employment services, information, referral, and counseling services, the preparation and delivery of meals, health support services and appropriate combinations of services designed to meet the special needs of children, the aged, the mentally retarded, the blind, the emotionally disturbed, the physically handicapped, and alcoholics and drug addicts; and

(B) expenditures for such services may include expenditures for—

(i) administration (including planning and evaluation);

(ii) personnel training and retraining directly related to the provision of those services (including both short- and long-term training at educational institutions through grants to such institutions or by direct financial assistance to students enrolled in such institutions); and

(iii) conferences or workshops, and training or retraining through grants to non-profit organizations within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or to individuals with social