

**§ 15097. Reporting**

A State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, at the end of the grant period, a report containing the results of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §208, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

**§ 15098. Technical assistance****(a) In general**

The Secretary shall enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, with documented experience, expertise, and capacity, for the purpose of providing technical assistance and information with respect to the development and implementation, or expansion and enhancement, of a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

**(b) Purpose**

An agency or organization that provides technical assistance and information under this section in a State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall provide the technical assistance and information to the lead entity of the State, family members of children with disabilities, organizations, service providers, and policymakers involved with children with disabilities and their families. Such an agency or organization may also provide technical assistance and information to a State that does not receive a grant under this subchapter.

**(c) Reports to the Secretary**

An entity providing technical assistance and information under this section shall prepare and submit to the Secretary periodic reports regarding Federal policies and procedures identified within the States that facilitate or impede the delivery of family support services to families of children with disabilities. The report shall include recommendations to the Secretary regarding the delivery of services, coordination with other programs, and integration of the policies described in section 15091 of this title in Federal law, other than this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §209, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

**§ 15099. Evaluation****(a) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct a national evaluation of the program of grants to States authorized by this subchapter.

**(b) Purpose****(1) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct the evaluation under subsection (a) to assess the status and effects of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, statewide systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities in a manner consistent with the provisions of this subchapter.

In particular, the Secretary shall assess the impact of such efforts on families of children with disabilities, and recommend amendments to this subchapter that are necessary to assist States to accomplish fully the purposes of this subchapter.

**(2) Information systems**

The Secretary shall work with the States to develop an information system designed to compile and report, from information provided by the States, qualitative and quantitative descriptions of the impact of the program of grants to States authorized by this subchapter on—

(A) families of children with disabilities, including families from unserved and underserved populations;

(B) access to and funding for family support services for families of children with disabilities;

(C) interagency coordination and collaboration between agencies responsible for providing the services; and

(D) the involvement of families of children with disabilities at all levels of the statewide systems.

**(c) Report to Congress**

Not later than 2½ years after October 30, 2000, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the evaluation conducted under this section.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §210, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1733.)

**§ 15100. Projects of national significance****(a) Study by the Secretary**

The Secretary shall review Federal programs to determine the extent to which such programs facilitate or impede access to, provision of, and funding for family support services for families of children with disabilities, consistent with the policies described in section 15091 of this title.

**(b) Projects of national significance**

The Secretary shall make grants or enter into contracts for projects of national significance to support the development of national and State policies and practices related to the development and implementation, or expansion and enhancement, of family-centered and family-directed systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §211, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1733.)

**§ 15101. Authorization of appropriations****(a) In general**

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subchapter such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2007.

**(b) Reservation****(1) In general**

The Secretary shall reserve for each fiscal year 10 percent, or \$400,000 (whichever is greater), of the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) to carry out—

(A) section 15098 of this title (relating to the provision of technical assistance and information to States); and

(B) section 15099 of this title (relating to the conduct of evaluations).

**(2) Special rule**

For each year that the amount appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) is \$10,000,000 or greater, the Secretary may reserve 5 percent of such amount to carry out section 15100 of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §212, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1734.)

SUBCHAPTER III—PROGRAM FOR DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS WHO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

**§ 15111. Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) direct support workers, especially young adults, have played essential roles in providing the support needed by individuals with developmental disabilities and expanding community options for those individuals;

(2) 4 factors have contributed to a decrease in the available pool of direct support workers, specifically—

(A) the small population of individuals who are age 18 through 25, an age group that has been attracted to direct support work in the past;

(B) the rapid expansion of the service sector, which attracts individuals who previously would have elected to pursue employment as direct support workers;

(C) the failure of wages in the human services sector to keep pace with wages in other service sectors; and

(D) the lack of quality training and career advancement opportunities available to direct support workers; and

(3) individuals with developmental disabilities benefit from assistance from direct support workers who are well trained, and benefit from receiving services from professionals who have spent time as direct support workers.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title III, §301, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1734.)

**§ 15112. Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) Developmental disability**

The term “developmental disability” has the meaning given the term in section 15002 of this title.

**(2) Institution of higher education**

The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 1141<sup>1</sup> of title 20.

**(3) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title III, §302, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1734.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 1141 of title 20, referred to in par. (2), was repealed by Pub. L. 105-244, §3, title I, §101(b), title VII, §702, Oct. 7, 1998, 112 Stat. 1585, 1616, 1803, effective Oct. 1, 1998. However, the term “institution of higher education” is defined in section 1001 of Title 20, Education.

**§ 15113. Reaching up scholarship program**

**(a) Program authorization**

The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, to enable the entities to carry out scholarship programs by providing vouchers for postsecondary education to direct support workers who assist individuals with developmental disabilities residing in diverse settings. The Secretary shall award the grants to pay for the Federal share of the cost of providing the vouchers.

**(b) Eligible entity**

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an entity shall be—

- (1) an institution of higher education;
- (2) a State agency; or
- (3) a consortium of such institutions or agencies.

**(c) Application requirements**

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a description of—

- (1) the basis for awarding the vouchers;
- (2) the number of individuals to receive the vouchers; and
- (3) the amount of funds that will be made available by the eligible entity to pay for the non-Federal share of the cost of providing the vouchers.

**(d) Selection criteria**

In awarding a grant under this section for a scholarship program, the Secretary shall give priority to an entity submitting an application that—

- (1) specifies that individuals who receive vouchers through the program will be individuals—

(A) who are direct support workers who assist individuals with developmental disabilities residing in diverse settings, while pursuing postsecondary education; and

(B) each of whom verifies, prior to receiving the voucher, that the worker has completed 250 hours as a direct support worker in the past 90 days;

- (2) states that the vouchers that will be provided through the program will be in amounts of not more than \$2,000 per year;

(3) provides an assurance that the eligible entity (or another specified entity that is not a voucher recipient) will contribute the non-Federal share of the cost of providing the vouchers; and

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.