
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2186

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on Human Services (originally sponsored by Representatives Flemming, Holm, Thibaudeau, Brown, H. Myers, Leonard, Morris and Patterson)

Read first time 01/31/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to prevention of child abuse and neglect; amending
2 RCW 43.121.015 and 43.121.070; adding new sections to chapter 43.121
3 RCW; creating new sections; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** HEALTHY FAMILIES-WASHINGTON PROGRAM--
6 FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

7 (1) Child abuse and neglect has been shown to be a significant risk
8 factor for violent behavior. Abused or neglected children have an
9 increased likelihood of arrest and involvement in violent crime as
10 youths or adults, and of victimization;

11 (2) One of the most effective strategies for preventing child abuse
12 and neglect is to offer parents education and support, at their
13 request, beginning with the birth of their first baby in locations
14 comfortable for parents; and

15 (3) Primary prevention efforts that offer parents education and
16 support, and thereby reduce the rate of child abuse and neglect, are an
17 essential component of any youth violence prevention effort.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.121.015 and 1988 c 278 s 4 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 As used in this chapter, the following terms have the meanings
4 indicated unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "Child" means an unmarried person who is under eighteen years
6 of age.

7 (2) "Community" means an individual political subdivision of the
8 state, a group of such political subdivisions, or a geographic area
9 within a political subdivision.

10 (3) "Council" means the Washington council for the prevention of
11 child abuse and neglect.

12 (~~(3)~~) (4) "Parent" means the birth or adoptive parent, or legal
13 guardian of a child.

14 (5) "Primary prevention" of child abuse and neglect means any
15 effort designed to inhibit or preclude the initial occurrence of child
16 abuse and neglect, both by the promotion of positive parenting and
17 family interaction, and the remediation of factors linked to causes of
18 child maltreatment.

19 (~~(4)~~) (6) "Secondary prevention" means services and programs that
20 identify and assist families under such stress that abuse or neglect is
21 likely or families display symptoms associated with child abuse or
22 neglect.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** HEALTHY FAMILIES--WASHINGTON PROGRAM. (1)
24 There is established in the council a program to coordinate and fund
25 community-based healthy families--Washington program sites. Selection
26 of program sites shall be made competitively based upon compliance with
27 RCW 43.121.070, 43.121.080 and sections 4 and 5 of this act.

28 (2) Participation by parents in the healthy families--Washington
29 program shall be voluntary.

30 (3) Parents who elect to participate in the voluntary healthy
31 families--Washington program shall receive education and support
32 services only after signing a voluntary written authorization. The
33 parents shall be informed of their right to withdraw their voluntary
34 decision to participate in the healthy families--Washington program at
35 any time of their choosing.

36 (4) Program criteria shall be established by the council in
37 consultation with the family policy council established pursuant to
38 chapter 70.190 RCW, and with private and public groups involved in

1 child abuse and neglect prevention and shall reflect the following
2 principles:

3 (a) Family policy principles enunciated by the family policy
4 council;

5 (b) Flexibility in program design and implementation to accommodate
6 unique community characteristics and needs;

7 (c) Services are offered to all parents of newborns who request
8 support, delivered at the level of intensity and duration that best
9 addresses the needs and concerns of each family; and

10 (d) Increased coordination of existing services to prospective
11 parents and parents of newborn children.

12 (5) Where appropriate, the council may utilize funds in the
13 children's trust fund for program sites established pursuant to
14 sections 3 through 5 of this act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** HEALTHY FAMILIES-WASHINGTON PROGRAM SITES--
16 REQUIREMENTS. (1) Each community-based healthy families--Washington
17 program site shall be designed to reduce the incidence of child abuse
18 and neglect in the defined community.

19 (2) Program participation by parents shall be voluntary. In
20 offering or providing services, every effort shall be made to
21 coordinate with and utilize other programs that fund or provide any of
22 the services referenced in subsection (3) of this section. The primary
23 focus for expenditure of healthy families--Washington program funds
24 should be development of a coordinated system of family support
25 services for parents of newborn children in the community, provision of
26 visits at locations comfortable for parents and provision of services
27 referenced in subsection (3) of this section that are not currently
28 funded from other sources.

29 (3) Each program site shall make the following services available
30 to families in the defined community:

31 (a) Visits for all expectant or new parents, who voluntarily sign
32 a written authorization to participate, at a location with which the
33 parent is comfortable;

34 (b) Screening prior to or soon after the birth of a child to assess
35 areas of concern in consultation with the family;

36 (c) Parenting education and skills development;

37 (d) Parenting and family support information and referral;

38 (e) Parent support groups;

1 (f) Service coordination for individual families, and assistance
2 with accessing services, provided in a manner that ensures that
3 individual families have only one individual or agency to which they
4 look for service coordination. Where appropriate for a family, service
5 coordination may be conducted through interdisciplinary or interagency
6 teams.

7 (4) The council shall evaluate each program site. Each program
8 site shall cooperate in the council's evaluation, and be evaluated
9 based on the rate by which child abuse and neglect in the defined
10 community are reduced, measured from the rates prior to the
11 implementation of the program. Program sites that demonstrate by
12 empirical evidence that they have been successful in reducing the child
13 abuse and neglect rate in the defined community shall be eligible for
14 consideration if reauthorized funding becomes available.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** HEALTHY FAMILIES--WASHINGTON PROGRAM SITES--
16 APPLICATIONS. Applications for healthy families--Washington program
17 funding shall:

- 18 (1) Define the community requesting funding;
- 19 (2) Designate a lead agency or organization for the program site;
- 20 (3) Contain evidence of the active voluntary participation of
21 entities in the community that will participate in the program;
- 22 (4) Demonstrate the participation of parents who are not affiliated
23 with participating entities in the development of the program;
- 24 (5) Describe the specific activities that will be undertaken by the
25 program site;
- 26 (6) Identify the community matching funds required under RCW
27 43.121.080;
- 28 (7) Include statistics on child abuse and neglect rates in the
29 community over at least the past five years. Upon request, the
30 department of social and health services shall assist in the
31 compilation of these statistics for applicants; and
- 32 (8) Include components that will demonstrate sensitivity to
33 religious, cultural, and socioeconomic differences in the defined
34 community.

35 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.121.070 and 1982 c 4 s 7 are each amended to read
36 as follows:

1 In awarding contracts under RCW 43.121.060 and sections 3 through
2 5 of this act, consideration shall be given to factors such as need,
3 diversity of geographic locations, coordination with or enhancement of
4 existing services, and the extensive use of volunteers in the program.
5 Further consideration shall be given to the extent to which contract
6 proposals are based on prior research that indicates a probability of
7 goal achievement.

8 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. APPROPRIATION. The sum of one million
9 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
10 the biennium ending June 30, 1995, from the general fund to the
11 Washington council for the prevention of child abuse and neglect for
12 the healthy families--Washington program. The maximum grant available
13 to any program site shall be one hundred thousand dollars for the
14 biennium ending June 30, 1995.

15 NEW SECTION. Sec. 8. CAPTIONS. Captions as used in this act
16 constitute no part of the law.

17 NEW SECTION. Sec. 9. Sections 3 through 5 of this act are each
18 added to chapter 43.121 RCW.

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