
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1771

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By House Human Services & Early Learning (originally sponsored by Representatives Senn, Jinkins, Davis, Macri, Mead, Ortiz-Self, Shewmake, Goodman, Lekanoff, Chapman, Entenman, Appleton, Fey, Lovick, Bergquist, Doglio, Ormsby, Pollet, and Frame; by request of Office of the Governor)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the welcome to Washington baby
2 act to create family supports through universal home visiting
3 programs and a statewide family linkage program for resources and
4 referrals; amending RCW 43.216.130 and 43.216.157; adding new
5 sections to chapter 43.216 RCW; creating a new section; and
6 recodifying RCW 43.216.130, 43.216.152, 43.216.155, 43.216.157, and
7 43.216.159.

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

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the work of
10 the 2016 blue ribbon commission on the delivery of services to
11 children and families yielded an array of findings, conclusions, and
12 guiding principles to inform the work ahead of fully implementing the
13 vision for the department of children, youth, and families. Key
14 themes identified by commission members unanimously, and by multiple
15 stakeholder groups, include the need for a greater focus on
16 prevention, recognizing the importance of caregiving to healthy brain
17 development; the need to offer families appropriate services earlier;
18 the value of strengthening families' connections with the services
19 available through their local community organizations; and the
20 importance of family and community voice in developing a culturally

1 responsive service system aimed at building family capacity for self-
2 sufficiency.

3 (2) The legislature also finds that universal voluntary home
4 visiting services are one of the most effective ways to build on a
5 family's strengths and support parents early as their child's first
6 and most important teachers. Offering all parents of newborns the
7 convenience of short-term, health-focused, culturally responsive home
8 visits will benefit the infant and the postpartum mother, as well as
9 provide a natural opportunity to share information and help connect
10 the family with community-based resources to address their current
11 and future needs, whether related to health care, child care,
12 housing, transportation, disability services, education and training,
13 or temporary economic supports.

14 (3) With the implementation of this act, the legislature intends
15 to continue expanding access to evidence-based, research-based, and
16 promising practice longer-term home visiting services and to begin
17 building a statewide network of short-term, universal voluntary home
18 visiting programs selected and administered through locally
19 coordinated systems.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.216
21 RCW to read as follows:

22 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
23 specific purpose, the department shall select up to four
24 demonstration sites for the implementation of a short-term universal
25 voluntary community-based home visiting program as described in this
26 section. The department must select demonstration sites by October 1,
27 2019, based on communities with the highest needs as well as
28 community interest and capacity. The department must begin
29 implementation of services in the demonstration sites by January 1,
30 2021.

31 (2) To be eligible for funding under this section, a universal
32 voluntary community-based home visiting program must:

33 (a) Be an evidence-based or promising practice model selected by
34 the community through a thoughtful community engagement process and
35 be reflective of community goals, needs, and diversity;

36 (b) Be coordinated with a local resource and referral linkage
37 system that includes, but is not limited to, family service centers,
38 community information centers, nonprofit provider coalitions, and
39 governmental entities;

1 (c) Deliver services using a community-based organization, with
2 home visitors who reflect the diversity of that community;

3 (d) Be culturally responsive and appropriate to meet the needs,
4 including the language needs, of the families to be served;

5 (e) Offer up to three voluntary health-focused home visits during
6 the infant's first year to all families in the community regardless
7 of income, education, or employment status;

8 (f) Offer visits in the family's home or another location at
9 times convenient for working families, including options for evening
10 and weekend visits; and

11 (g) Provide for a process that will allow for adaptations
12 necessary to meet the specific needs of local communities within the
13 context of the chosen model, such as:

14 (i) Requiring home visits to be led or supervised by a health
15 care professional licensed by the department of health, which may
16 include nurses, midwives, or other relevant health care
17 professionals; and

18 (ii) Allowing for the option of pairing a licensed health care
19 provider with a trusted community partner whenever culturally
20 appropriate.

21 (3) In partnership with the family, the initial visit must focus
22 on the immediate health and safety needs of the child, mother, and
23 family, and if appropriate, provide the family with information and
24 referrals to local community-based resources matched to the family's
25 interests and needs. As appropriate, the universal voluntary
26 community-based home visiting program must include a process for
27 following up with families to facilitate their connection with local
28 service providers.

29 (4) The department shall offer technical assistance to assist
30 communities in the demonstration sites with engagement, planning, and
31 implementation activities as needed including, but not limited to:

32 (a) Facilitating connections between local health jurisdictions,
33 cities, counties, community-based organizations, and early learning
34 coalitions;

35 (b) Developing a family recruitment and outreach plan;

36 (c) Promoting awareness and understanding of the program to
37 increase community participation and support;

38 (d) Assessing workforce needs such as training, recruiting, and
39 retaining culturally responsive home visitors who are reflective of
40 community diversity;

1 (e) Identifying or developing a resource and referral linkage
2 system; and

3 (f) Gathering and analyzing data on program performance measures
4 and aggregate child and family outcomes.

5 (5) All personally identifiable data collected under this section
6 is confidential. The community-based home visiting programs shall
7 maintain the confidentiality of this data consistent with the
8 requirements of this section. Nothing in this section limits existing
9 confidentiality requirements applicable under other state or federal
10 laws. A community-based home visiting program may only disclose the
11 following information:

12 (a) Aggregate data, without personally identifiable information,
13 to the department for the purposes of program evaluation and outcome
14 reporting; and

15 (b) With the family's consent, limited family information only
16 for the purposes of referrals to local community-based resources
17 matched to the family's interests and needs. The community-based home
18 visiting program must provide the family with the limited family
19 information to be shared prior to the program sharing any family
20 information as part of a referral to a community-based resource.

21 (6) Nothing in this section relieves a mandated reporter from
22 requirements to report child abuse or neglect pursuant to RCW
23 26.44.030.

24 (7) The department may adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW for
25 the administration of its duties under this section.

26 (8) The department shall provide the following reports to the
27 legislature and governor in compliance with RCW 43.01.036:

28 (a) By November 1, 2020, a status update on the planning and
29 implementation activities underway in the demonstration sites
30 selected under this section and the anticipated implementation
31 timelines for the respective sites;

32 (b) By November 1, 2021:

33 (i) An interim evaluation report on formative goals and program
34 activities. The interim evaluation must be completed in consultation
35 with the home visiting services advisory committee established under
36 RCW 43.216.130;

37 (ii) An implementation plan and funding model for expanding
38 statewide access to short-term universal voluntary home visiting
39 programs and possible consideration of the development of a statewide
40 family linkage program for resources and referrals. The report must

1 address options for including short-term universal voluntary home
2 visits as a covered benefit under medicaid health plans; and

3 (iii) Recommendations for the statewide coordination of short-
4 term universal voluntary home visiting services offered to families
5 in Washington. The recommendations must be developed in collaboration
6 with the health care authority, the department of health, and the
7 department of social and health services;

8 (c) By November 1, 2022, in collaboration with the office of the
9 insurance commissioner and the health benefit exchange, options for
10 including short-term, universal, voluntary home visits as a covered
11 benefit under nonmedicaid health plans; and

12 (d) By November 1, 2022, a final report on program outcomes. The
13 final report must be completed in consultation with the home visiting
14 services advisory committee established under RCW 43.216.130.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.216.130 and 2017 c 171 s 2 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1)(a) The home visiting services account is created in the state
18 treasury. Revenues to the account shall consist of appropriations by
19 the legislature and all other sources deposited in the account. All
20 federal funds received by the department for home visiting activities
21 must be deposited into the account.

22 (b)(i) Expenditures from the account shall be used for state
23 matching funds for the purposes of the program established in this
24 section and federally funded activities for the home visiting
25 program, including administrative expenses.

26 (ii) The department oversees the account and is the lead state
27 agency for home visiting system development. The nongovernmental
28 private-public partnership supports the home visiting service
29 delivery system and provides support functions to funded programs.

30 (iii) It is the intent of the legislature that state funds
31 invested in the account be matched by the private-public partnership
32 each fiscal year.

33 (iv) Amounts used for program administration by the department
34 may not exceed an average of ten percent in any two consecutive
35 fiscal years.

36 (v) Authorizations for expenditures may be given only after
37 private funds are committed. The nongovernmental private-public
38 partnership must report to the department quarterly to demonstrate
39 investment of private match funds.

1 (c) Expenditures from the account are subject to appropriation
2 and the allotment provisions of chapter 43.88 RCW.

3 (2) The department must expend moneys from the account to provide
4 state matching funds for partnership activities to implement home
5 visiting services and administer the infrastructure necessary to
6 develop, support, and evaluate evidence-based, research-based, and
7 promising home visiting programs.

8 (3) Activities eligible for funding through the account include,
9 but are not limited to:

10 (a) Home visiting services that achieve one or more of the
11 following: (i) Enhancing child development and well-being by
12 alleviating the effects on child development of poverty and other
13 known risk factors; (ii) reducing the incidence of child abuse and
14 neglect; or (iii) promoting school readiness for young children and
15 their families; (~~and~~)

16 (b) Development and maintenance of the infrastructure for home
17 visiting programs, including training, quality improvement, and
18 evaluation; and

19 (c) The short-term universal voluntary home visiting programs
20 created in section 2 of this act, any funding for which must be
21 specified separately in the omnibus appropriations act. The private-
22 public partnership match described in subsection (1)(b)(iii) of this
23 section does not apply to the universal home visiting program.

24 (4) (~~Beginning July 1, 2010,~~) The department shall contract
25 with the nongovernmental private-public partnership designated in RCW
26 (~~43.215.070~~) 43.216.065 to support programs funded through the home
27 visiting services account. The department shall monitor performance
28 and provide periodic reports on the uses and outcomes of the home
29 visiting services account.

30 (5) The department shall, in the administration of the programs:

31 (a) Fund programs through a competitive bid process or in
32 compliance with the regulations of the funding source; and

33 (b) Convene an advisory committee of diverse early learning and
34 home visiting experts, including (~~one~~) representatives from the
35 department, to advise the partnership regarding research and the
36 distribution of funds from the account to eligible programs.

37 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.216.157 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 s 6 are each
38 amended to read as follows:

1 The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and
2 RCW ((43.215.145, 43.215.147, and 43.121.185)) 43.216.130,
3 43.216.152, 43.216.155, 43.216.159 (as recodified by this act), and
4 section 2 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (1) "Evidence-based" means a program or practice that has had
6 multiple site random controlled trials across heterogeneous
7 populations demonstrating that the program or practice is effective
8 for the population.

9 (2) "Home visitation" means providing services in the permanent
10 or temporary residence, or in other familiar surroundings, of the
11 family receiving such services.

12 (3) "Longer-term home visiting" means evidence-based, research-
13 based, or promising practice home visiting services delivered to a
14 family on a monthly basis or a more frequent interval over a period
15 of one to three years.

16 (4) "Promising practice" means a program or practice that has the
17 potential to become a research-based or evidence-based practice based
18 on preliminary information but does not yet have published evidence
19 of effectiveness from a randomized, controlled trial.

20 (5) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has some
21 research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet the
22 standard of evidence-based practices.

23 (6) "Resource and referral family linkage system" means a
24 resource and referral system that includes, but is not limited to,
25 local family service centers, community information centers,
26 nonprofit provider coalitions, and governmental entities.

27 (7) "Universal home visiting" means the short-term, voluntary,
28 community-based home visitation services provided to newborns and
29 their families, regardless of income, education, or employment
30 status, as described in section 2 of this act.

31 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. RCW 43.216.130, 43.216.152, 43.216.155,
32 43.216.157, and 43.216.159 are each recodified as sections in chapter
33 43.216 RCW.

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