
SENATE BILL 5601

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Frame, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Lovick, Nguyen, Randall, Robinson, and Valdez

Read first time 01/27/23. Referred to Committee on Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a youth development office and
2 grant program within the department of commerce; adding new sections
3 to chapter 43.330 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that youth
6 development programs have provided after-school, summer, mentoring,
7 and wraparound supports to Washington children and youth for over 100
8 years.

9 Youth development programs: Provide caring adults, structured and
10 unstructured learning, and development activities; assist students in
11 developing postsecondary and career pathways; and provide a safe and
12 supportive environment outside of the classroom, in the school
13 settings, the community, and the home. The legislature further finds
14 that youth development programs have demonstrated impact and research
15 to show that programs can improve academic and social-emotional
16 outcomes and increase the chances that disengaged students will
17 reengage with school.

18 The legislature recognizes that the afterschool alliance America
19 after 3PM report showed that 64 percent of parents in Washington
20 state reported after-school programs as too expensive in 2020,
21 compared to 39 percent in 2014. Additionally, 49 percent of parents

1 reported that after-school programs were not available in their
2 community in 2020. In the 2021 Washington healthy youth survey, teens
3 of color were less likely to report access to out-of-school
4 activities and service clubs than their white peers.

5 The legislature declares that youth development programs have
6 been and continue to be essential to healthy and more equitable
7 communities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these programs: Provided
8 responsive child care, educational programming, homework support, and
9 mentoring; delivered basic need and homework packets; and assisted
10 students with technology issues in the home. Many youth development
11 programs were providing synchronous and asynchronous learning
12 opportunities for children in child care and for many youth
13 struggling with or lacking access to virtual learning from their K-12
14 school home. Yet, no state agency has purview of or a comprehensive
15 system of support for youth development programming, which became
16 very apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

17 The legislature therefore resolves to create the office of youth
18 development in the department of commerce to administer grant
19 programs to youth development programs, agencies, and organizations
20 and to administer services designed to increase public access to
21 youth development programs.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply to
23 sections 3 and 4 of this act unless the context clearly requires
24 otherwise.

25 (1) "Expanded learning opportunities" means a structured learning
26 environment that occurs outside the traditional school day through
27 before-school, after-school, and summer programs. "Expanded learning
28 opportunities" offer a safe place for students where education can be
29 supported and supplemented. "Expanded learning opportunities" offer
30 personalized learning opportunities, mentorship, or general academic
31 support for youth in areas such as:

32 (a) The arts including, but not limited to, the performing arts,
33 visual arts, literature, fine arts, craft arts, creative writing,
34 architecture, and music;

35 (b) Civic engagement;

36 (c) Science;

37 (d) Technology;

38 (e) Engineering; and

39 (f) Math.

1 (2) "Office" means the office of youth development in the
2 department of commerce created in section 3 of this act.

3 (3) "Youth development" means an intentional, strength-based
4 approach that inclusively and equitably engages young people within
5 their communities in a manner that centers youth voice and
6 leadership. "Youth development" is culturally responsive, fosters
7 positive relationships, and helps young people develop skills and
8 competencies to achieve their goals.

9 (4) "Youth development program" means a program for youth that
10 focuses on holistic outcomes by complementing school-day academics,
11 promotes social and emotional well-being, and supports access to
12 postsecondary career pathways. "Youth development programs" may not
13 provide basic needs services such as shelter or food outside of
14 program time, but they can function as a referral resource to help
15 young people and families identify and navigate those services. A
16 youth development program may include mentoring, expanded learning
17 opportunities, before-school, after-school or summer programs,
18 school-aged child care, or other child supports that address the
19 comprehensive needs of young people.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The office of youth development is created
21 in the department. The office shall:

22 (1) Administer a grant program as described in section 4 of this
23 act;

24 (2) Work with relevant state agencies, youth development
25 intermediaries, providers, and youth to develop recommendations to
26 reduce barriers for youth accessing programs and/or providers and to
27 reduce barriers to providers accessing funding;

28 (3) Convene and coordinate with youth development providers and
29 programs to allow for peer and professional learning, sharing of
30 resources, and enhanced capacity as funding is available;

31 (4) Maintain a resource hub to provide a statewide program
32 locator system for consumers, and to collect, analyze, and report
33 data.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to the amounts appropriated
35 for this specific purpose, the office shall develop and implement a
36 grant program that provides grant funding to youth development
37 programs in the state that provide:

38 (a) Learning acceleration;

1 (b) Social-emotional learning;

2 (c) Mentorship;

3 (d) Connection to nonschool-based resources;

4 (e) Support related to postsecondary access and career pathways;

5 (f) Arts programming including, but not limited to, the
6 performing arts, visual arts, literature, fine arts, craft arts,
7 creative writing, architecture, and music; or

8 (g) Cultural programming.

9 (2) In designing the grant program required under this section,
10 the office shall engage with and consider feedback from the following
11 groups with representation from all six department of children,
12 youth, and families regions of the state:

13 (a) Youth ages 14 through 26;

14 (b) People with lived experience providing or receiving services
15 from a youth development program;

16 (c) Youth development program providers serving local communities
17 and operating statewide;

18 (d) Youth development program providers serving local communities
19 and not operating statewide;

20 (e) Statewide and local youth development intermediaries;

21 (f) Indian tribes within Washington state; and

22 (g) The department of children, youth, and families and the
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction.

24 (3) The design of the grant program for youth development
25 programs required under this section must include the following
26 components:

27 (a) Equity in:

28 (i) Size and type of organizations receiving the grants;

29 (ii) Geographic distribution of grant funding throughout all six
30 department of children, youth, and families regions of the state; and

31 (iii) Distribution of grant funding to urban, suburban, and rural
32 areas;

33 (b) Prioritization of grants for programs serving youth and
34 communities furthest removed from opportunity and who have been
35 historically marginalized;

36 (c) Distribution of grants to nonprofit entities, entities
37 sponsored by a nonprofit organization, tribes within Washington
38 state, and city or county parks and recreation entities;

39 (d) The prohibition of grant distribution to school districts;

40 (e) Distribution of grant funding for the full fiscal biennium;

1 (f) An outcome framework for grant funding recipients that
2 demonstrates positive youth outcomes. The outcome framework shall not
3 require access to data that the program itself cannot supply from
4 within the program such as school-related data. The outcome framework
5 shall be cost-efficient for the agency and for programs with limited
6 staffing and infrastructure; and outcomes shall be disaggregated to
7 the greatest extent possible. Technical assistance for providers
8 shall be made available related to data collection and reporting;

9 (g) A requirement that grant recipients include youth with
10 physical and developmental disabilities to the extent possible;

11 (h) A process for providing training regarding youth behavioral
12 health and trauma-informed service delivery to youth development
13 program staff at no cost or little cost to the youth development
14 program; and

15 (i) A requirement that grant recipients take steps to encourage
16 parent and family engagement.

17 (4) To the extent allowable under law, the department shall
18 include youth in reviewing grant applications pursuant to RCW
19 43.03.220.

20 (5) By October 1, 2026, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
21 office shall submit a report to the relevant committees of the
22 legislature that shall include at a minimum:

23 (a) An outcomes evaluation of the grant program described in this
24 section;

25 (b) Recommendations for improving access to youth development
26 programs for consumers;

27 (c) Recommendations for expanding youth development programs.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each
29 added to chapter 43.330 RCW.

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