

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Peterson and others

Subject: Early Childhood Community Partnerships Grant Program

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Overview

This bill creates an early childhood community partnerships grant program and appropriates an unspecified amount for the program.

Section

1 Early childhood community partnerships. Creates § 124D.165.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a grant program to support children's healthy development and increase children's school readiness by supporting community partnerships. Requires the partnerships to promote children's school readiness from before birth to kindergarten by coordinating and improving access to specified services.

Subd. 2. Eligibility; application. Paragraph (a) specifies who may apply for a grant. Specifies only one grant will be made in a geographic area. Encourages collaboration among partners.

Paragraph (b) specifies the application process.

Paragraph (c) requires applicants to show how they will measure kindergarten readiness and child development and progress over time.

Paragraph (d) requires applicants to have a plan for increasing the number of children in quality early learning programs and increasing the number of quality early learning programs in their community.

Subd. 3. Program components. Paragraph (a) requires grant recipients to develop collaborative partnerships among specified early childhood education and care providers that include the following services, among others:

- high-quality early care and education settings for children from birth to kindergarten;
- meaningful kindergarten transition services for families that begin one year before a child enters kindergarten; and
- outreach and support for early childhood developmental screening.

Paragraph (b) requires applicants to agree to provide a local match for any grant money it receives. Allows the local match to be from an early childhood levy. Requires grant recipients to use the grant, and the local match, to supplement but not supplant existing early childhood initiatives in the community.

Subd. 4. Advisory committees. Requires each grantee to have an advisory committee, which may be a preexisting early childhood committee or a newly formed early childhood advisory committee. To the extent feasible, specifies the groups that must make up the membership of the newly formed advisory committees.

Subd. 5. Application review; grant awards. Paragraph (a) specifies that only those applicants who meet the requirements of this section are eligible to receive a grant.

Paragraph (b) specifies that grants are awarded for a two-year time period. Specifies that two types of grants are awarded to qualifying applicants: planning grants and implementation grants. Awards a 15 percent increase in the second year of the grant to grantees that achieve their set outcomes.

Paragraph (c) requires the commissioners of education, human services, and health to determine the amount of each grant based upon the number of children and families the grantee expects to serve, and the nature of the programs and services the grantee expects to provide or facilitate.

Paragraph (d) requires the commissioners to award grants in each of the governor's economic development regions and in each county of the seven county metropolitan area, to the extent feasible.

Paragraph (e) requires grantees to use the grant to implement this program and not to supplant existing early childhood initiatives. Requires the Departments of Education, Human Services, and Health to provide technical assistance to grantees on quality improvements and ratings, appropriate assessment tools, collaboration, and other needs upon request.

Subd. 6. Evaluation. Requires the commissioners of education, human services, and health to provide for an evaluation of this grant program and to report to the appropriate legislative committees by January 15, 2012.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2011.

- 2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of education in fiscal year 2012 for the early childhood community partnerships grant program.