
SENATE BILL 5885

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1991 Regular Session

By Senators L. Smith and Stratton.

Read first time February 28, 1991. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to community grants for programs for young
2 adolescents; adding new sections to chapter 43.63A RCW; providing an
3 expiration date; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) Adolescence is a time of major
6 developmental change. It is essential that adolescents establish an
7 individual identity with unique goals and aspirations, emancipate from
8 parents and caregivers physically and emotionally, and develop skills
9 to become self-sufficient in order to become a successful adult.
10 Increasing numbers of adolescents are having trouble successfully
11 reaching adulthood, leaving them unable to function independently and
12 causing great concern among parents, social services and health
13 providers, educators, law enforcement, and the community at large.
14 Children are our most valuable natural resource. A skilled and
15 talented work force is businesses' most valuable resource. Children

1 who drop out of school, are addicted to alcohol or other drugs, or
2 become parents before they are ready to parent find it increasingly
3 difficult to become successful, self-sufficient adults and productive
4 members of the work force. This valuable work force is critical to a
5 productive future for Washington. While the causes for these problems
6 are complex, a central factor is extensive societal change that creates
7 a need for adults to act as mentors and appropriate role models to
8 guide children's growth and development.

9 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that the community become
10 more capable of providing ample opportunity for success. The
11 legislature recognizes that just as early childhood is a critical
12 juncture in establishing the foundation for positive development, young
13 adolescence is a critical juncture when young people form values and
14 make fateful choices about what qualities they want in friends, how
15 they will treat their bodies, what they expect from parents and adults,
16 and how they will fit into the community and world.

17 (3) The legislature finds that these choices have significant
18 social, health, and financial consequences for adolescents, their
19 families, communities, and the state. The legislature further finds
20 that enabling and motivating young adolescents to make these choices
21 wisely is essential to improving the life chances of all adolescents in
22 the state and to preventing such costly social and health problems as
23 substance abuse, suicide, early sexual activity, adolescent pregnancy,
24 sexually transmitted disease, crime, delinquency, school dropout,
25 reduced earning capacity, and family dysfunction.

26 (4) The legislature finds that by providing the opportunity and
27 incentive for the development of community strategies that enable and
28 motivate adolescents to make choices wisely is essential to improving
29 their success as adults and preventing costly social and health
30 problems. Young adolescents are at a juncture between childhood and

1 adolescence that makes them particularly receptive to well-defined
2 activities that build their personal skills and self-esteem and will
3 help them plan for the future and understand their goals and
4 aspirations.

5 (5) The pilot projects established in sections 2 through 6 of this
6 act are intended to mobilize communities to:

7 (a) Examine how well the community is providing middle-school-age
8 youth the self-esteem, knowledge, skills, and motivation they need to
9 make healthy choices and succeed in life;

10 (b) Plan and implement improvements in the community's system of
11 programs and activities targeting middle-school-age youth and their
12 families for success;

13 (c) Develop incentive programs to recognize and reward adolescents
14 who are making healthful choices and contributing to their communities;
15 and

16 (d) Enhance parent and young adolescent interaction by strongly
17 promoting parental involvement in programs and services.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** Unless the context clearly requires
19 otherwise, the definitions in this section apply throughout sections 1
20 through 8 of this act.

21 (1) "Community" means a political subdivision, a group of political
22 subdivisions, or a geographic area within a political subdivision in
23 the state.

24 (2) "Young adolescent" means middle or junior high school age
25 youth.

26 (3) "Adolescent" means middle, junior high, and high school age
27 youth.

28 (4) "Parent" means father, mother, stepfather, stepmother,
29 grandparent, or guardian.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The department shall establish and
2 administer a community-based program targeting young adolescents for
3 teen success. The department is authorized to award grants to
4 communities for the planning and improvement of the community's system
5 of programs, practices, policies, and activities to provide young
6 adolescents the knowledge, self-esteem, skills, motivation, and family
7 and community support necessary to make healthy choices and succeed in
8 adolescence and throughout life.

9 (2) The director shall appoint a committee to evaluate grant
10 applicants' fulfillment of the requirements under section 5 of this act
11 and recommend projects for approval. One representative shall be
12 appointed to the committee from each of the following: The department
13 of community development, the office of the superintendent of public
14 instruction, the department of health, the department of social and
15 health services, the employment security department, and the
16 administrator for the courts. Three members shall be appointed from
17 professionals whose experience is in child and adolescent development.
18 Three members shall be appointed from parents of young adolescents.
19 One female young adolescent and one male young adolescent shall also be
20 appointed. The department shall consider the recommendations of the
21 committee in making grant awards.

22 (3) The department may solicit and accept grants and donations from
23 public and private sources for the program.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Pursuant to section 3 of this act,
25 the department shall, from funds appropriated for this purpose, award
26 eight grants to applicants representing diverse geographic locations
27 throughout the state.

28 (2) The department shall distribute the initial grants by August
29 31, 1991.

1 (3) Initial projects may be conducted for up to six years, if funds
2 are so provided. Subject to department approval and continued state
3 funding, projects initially funded for two years may be extended for a
4 total period not to exceed six years. Future funding shall be
5 conditioned on a positive evaluation of the project.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The goal of the pilot projects shall
7 be to increase adolescent well-being as evidenced by indicators of
8 adolescent health and well-being including, but not limited to:
9 Indicators of drug and alcohol abuse; indicators of tobacco use;
10 suicide; early sexual activity; adolescent pregnancy; sexually
11 transmitted disease; crime; delinquency; school dropout; reduced
12 earning capacity; and family dysfunction.

13 (2) The pilot projects under section 3 of this act shall be based
14 upon the following principles:

15 (a) Only a community, multidimensional approach to young adolescent
16 success is likely to have a significant impact on the overall rate of
17 adolescent success in the community.

18 (b) Each community has unique needs and circumstances regarding
19 young adolescents and their families, and therefore communities should
20 design their own projects.

21 (c) New, positive, innovative programs or activities that emphasize
22 integration of existing positive programs or activities that involve
23 young adolescents and their families should be developed.

24 (d) The focus should be on the periods of transition between
25 elementary school and middle or junior high school, and between middle
26 or junior high school and high school, which are particularly important
27 to adolescent success.

28 (3) Each project shall include:

1 (a) Role modeling, business linkage, family life education
2 involving young adolescents and parents, community service such as
3 volunteerism, and citizenship learning.

4 (b) Development or improvement of community programs in at least
5 three of the following areas, including steps to link these programs to
6 other programs in the community related to young adolescent success:

7 (i) Tobacco, drug, and alcohol resistance education;

8 (ii) Peer counseling and support;

9 (iii) Expanding recreational and social opportunities for all young
10 adolescents in the community; and

11 (iv) Education success.

12 (c) A family involvement component, which shall include at least
13 parent education in preparing young adolescents for adolescent success,
14 with attention to involving all families of young adolescents
15 regardless of ethnicity, home language, economic status, or educational
16 background.

17 (d) Development of an incentive program to reward adolescents for
18 making healthful lifestyle choices and contributing to their
19 communities. The incentive program shall:

20 (i) Be open to all adolescents in the community;

21 (ii) Use locally developed resources to provide rewards; and

22 (iii) Use a system of peer review to determine the granting of the
23 rewards. This system shall be based on a policy developed locally with
24 the involvement of young adolescents, older adolescents, parents,
25 businesses, service organizations, churches, local government, and the
26 local school district.

27 (4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that a
28 particular curriculum or program must be used. However, pilot projects
29 are encouraged to use curricula, programs, and activities that have
30 been evaluated and determined to be successful.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Applications for grants under section 4
2 of this act shall be submitted by July 31, 1991. Each application
3 shall:

4 (1) Define the community requesting funding.

5 (2) Designate a lead agency or organization.

6 (3) Describe the current system of programs, activities, and
7 services for young adolescents and their families in the community, and
8 describe how it is envisioned the project will contribute to the
9 integration and expansion of this system and the achievement of program
10 goals.

11 (4) Document that a local advisory board has been created for the
12 project after wide solicitation for membership and a fair selection
13 process has been used. The advisory board shall have twelve members
14 representing a broad cross-section of community members and shall
15 include, at minimum, one male and one female adolescent.

16 (5) Include written assurance that each member of the advisory
17 board will participate in a technical training and assistance program
18 and as the project progresses oversee:

19 (a) Development of a community mission statement and community
20 goals regarding preparing young adolescents for success;

21 (b) Assessment of young adolescent needs in the community;

22 (c) Development and implementation of a plan for the activities
23 specified under section 5(3) of this act; and

24 (d) Ongoing local evaluation of the project.

25 (6) Include written assurance that all parties involved will work
26 cooperatively during the term of the pilot project.

27 (7) Include written assurance that the project will cooperate with
28 the program evaluation provided under section 9 of this act by
29 providing requested data and information.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The department of community
2 development shall report to the legislature on the progress of the
3 young adolescent success program by January 1 of each odd-numbered
4 year. The first report shall be submitted by January 1, 1993.

5 (2) Each organization receiving a grant under sections 2 through 6
6 of this act shall submit an annual report to the department of
7 community development on the progress of the pilot project, including
8 the detail of expenditures of public moneys and the results of ongoing
9 local evaluation of the project, as a condition of receipt of continued
10 funding. The department shall also develop a tool for use in the local
11 ongoing evaluation of the projects.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The department shall contract with an
13 independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness of the
14 projects established in sections 2 through 6 of this act. The
15 evaluation shall, at minimum, assess progress on the criteria
16 identified in section 5(1) of this act and analyze which program
17 elements were important to project success, taking into account the
18 effect of other factors in the community on project success. The
19 evaluation shall also identify any barriers to project success that may
20 be caused by local, state, or federal rules, regulations, policies, or
21 procedures. The January 1, 1995, department report on the young
22 adolescent success program shall include preliminary results of the
23 evaluation. The January 1, 1997, department report shall include final
24 results of the evaluation and recommendations for a state-wide
25 community-based young adolescent success program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** (1) The sum of nine hundred thousand
27 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from

1 the general fund to the department of community development for the
2 biennium ending June 30, 1993, for the purposes of this act.

3 (2) Of this amount, eight hundred thousand dollars is provided
4 solely for award grants provided by section 4 of this act.

5 (3) Of this amount, one hundred thousand dollars, or as much
6 thereof as may be necessary, is provided solely for the evaluation
7 provided by section 9 of this act.

8 (4) Funds provided under this act shall not be expended for medical
9 or pharmaceutical services or referrals or contraceptive services or
10 referrals funded pursuant to chapter 74.09 RCW. Funds appropriated in
11 this act shall not be supplanted for existing family planning services.
12 Sexuality education programs for young adolescents under section 4 of
13 this act shall not include the dispensing of contraceptives or showing
14 young adolescents how to use them.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** Sections 1 through 8 of this act are
16 each added to chapter 43.63A RCW.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** This act shall expire June 30, 1998.