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HOUSE BILL 2479

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representative Rule

1 AN ACT Relating to home visiting; and amending RCW 43.216.130,  
2 43.216.157, and 43.216.159.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.216.130 and 2017 c 171 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) The home visiting services account is created in the state  
7 treasury. Revenues to the account shall consist of appropriations by  
8 the legislature and all other sources deposited in the account. All  
9 federal funds received by the department for home visiting activities  
10 must be deposited into the account.

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

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

19 ~~(iii) ((It is the intent of the legislature that state funds~~  
20 ~~invested in the account be matched by the private-public partnership~~  
21 ~~each fiscal year.~~

1       ~~(iv))~~) Amounts used for program administration by the department  
2 may not exceed an average of ten percent in any two consecutive  
3 fiscal years.

4       ~~((v) Authorizations for expenditures may be given only after  
5 private funds are committed. The nongovernmental private-public  
6 partnership must report to the department quarterly to demonstrate  
7 investment of private match funds.))~~

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

10       (2) The department must expend moneys from the account to provide  
11 state matching funds for partnership activities to implement home  
12 visiting services and administer the infrastructure necessary to  
13 develop, support, and evaluate evidence-based, research-based, and  
14 promising home visiting programs.

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

17       (a) Home visiting services that achieve one or more of the  
18 following: (i) Enhancing child development and well-being by  
19 alleviating the effects on child development of poverty and other  
20 known risk factors; (ii) reducing the incidence of child abuse and  
21 neglect; or (iii) promoting school readiness for young children and  
22 their families; and

23       (b) Development and maintenance of the infrastructure for home  
24 visiting programs, including training, quality improvement, and  
25 evaluation.

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

32       (5) ~~((The))~~ Except for programs established under RCW 43.216.159,  
33 the department shall, in the administration of the programs:

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

36       (b) Convene an advisory committee of early learning and home  
37 visiting experts, including one representative from the department,  
38 to advise the partnership regarding research and the distribution of  
39 funds from the account to eligible programs.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 43.216.157 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 s 6 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       The definitions in this section apply throughout this section and  
4 RCW ((43.215.145, 43.215.147, and 43.121.185)) 43.216.155 and  
5 43.216.159 unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

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

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

13       (3) "Research-based" means a program or practice that has some  
14 research demonstrating effectiveness, but that does not yet meet the  
15 standard of evidence-based practices.

16       **Sec. 3.** RCW 43.216.159 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 32 s 7 are each  
17 amended to read as follows:

18       (1) Within available funds, the department shall fund  
19 evidence-based and research-based home ((visitation)) visiting  
20 programs for improving parenting skills and outcomes for children.  
21 Home ((visitation)) visiting programs must be voluntary and must  
22 address the needs of families to alleviate the effect on child  
23 development of factors such as poverty, single parenthood, parental  
24 unemployment or underemployment, parental disability, or parental  
25 lack of high school diploma, which research shows are risk factors  
26 for child abuse and neglect and poor educational outcomes. In order  
27 to maximize opportunities to obtain matching funds from private  
28 entities, general funds intended to support home visiting funding  
29 shall be appropriated to the home visiting services account  
30 established in RCW ((43.215.130)) 43.216.130.

31       (2) The department shall work with the department of social and  
32 health services, the department of health, the private-public  
33 partnership created in RCW ((43.215.070)) 43.216.065, and key  
34 partners and stakeholders to develop a plan to coordinate or  
35 consolidate home ((visitation)) visiting services for children and  
36 families to the extent practicable.

37       (3)(a) In addition to the programs described in subsection (1) of  
38 this section, the department shall provide support for additional  
39 home visiting programs for families receiving child protective

1 services as defined under RCW 26.44.020, families with a child who is  
2 a candidate for foster care as defined under RCW 26.44.020, or  
3 families receiving child welfare services as defined under RCW  
4 74.13.020 by:

5 (i) Contracting with existing home visiting programs established  
6 under RCW 43.216.130 to provide additional, targeted home visiting  
7 programs in areas with the highest historical rates of child welfare  
8 screened-in intakes to serve up to 150 families following a  
9 competitive procurement process in accordance with chapter 39.26 RCW;  
10 and

11 (ii) Providing payment to each selected home visiting program  
12 using a rate established by the department.

13 (b) The additional, targeted home visiting programs created under  
14 this subsection must meet the following requirements:

15 (i) The contracted providers must be existing home visiting  
16 providers;

17 (ii) The areas served must have the highest historical rates of  
18 child welfare screened-in intakes; and

19 (iii) The contracted providers must make arrangements to serve  
20 families living in rural areas.

21 (c) Within amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, the  
22 department shall provide training to home visiting providers selected  
23 under this section specific to serving families impacted by substance  
24 use disorders.

25 (d) Home visiting providers who are provided a referral to work  
26 with a family through the process established in (e) of this  
27 subsection must make efforts to contact those families within seven  
28 days of receiving the referral.

29 (e) The department shall develop and implement a referral process  
30 to refer eligible families to the home visiting programs established  
31 under this subsection, which allows child welfare workers as defined  
32 under RCW 74.14B.010 and community organizations working with  
33 eligible families to make referrals.

34 (f) Priority for home visiting programs established under this  
35 section must be given to a family when:

36 (i) The department is investigating a report of alleged abuse or  
37 neglect under RCW 26.44.030 regarding that family;

38 (ii) Receiving a family assessment response under RCW 26.44.260;  
39 or

1 (iii) Receiving voluntary services from the department.

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