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S.263

Introduced by Senators Westman, Cummings, Ingram, Lyons and McCormack

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; services for children and families; parent child  
centers

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to: (1) establish  
a Parent Child Center Network to ensure accountability among and distribute  
funding to designated parent child centers; (2) amend the criteria for  
designation as a parent child center; (3) appropriate base funding to the Parent  
Child Center Network; and (4) establish an annual inflation factor to monies  
appropriated to the Parent Child Center Network.

An act relating to the Parent Child Center Network

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 37 is amended to read:

Chapter 37. ~~PARENT CHILD~~ PARENT CHILD CENTER PROGRAM  
NETWORK

§ 3701. ~~PARENT CHILD~~ PARENT CHILD CENTER PROGRAM  
NETWORK; ELIGIBILITY

(a) ~~For purposes of~~ As used in this chapter, ~~“parent child center”~~;

1           (1) “Parent Child Center” means a community-based organization  
2           ~~established for the purpose of providing prevention and early intervention~~  
3           ~~services such as parenting education, support, training, referral and related~~  
4           ~~services to prospective parents and families with young children including~~  
5           ~~those whose children are medically, socially, or educationally at risk that~~  
6           ~~serves as a central hub and lead provider of primary prevention services for~~  
7           ~~families with young children on behalf of the State.~~

8           (2) “Parent Child Center Network” means an Agency of Human  
9           ~~Services’ community partner comprised of designated parent child centers that~~  
10           ~~ensures accountability and collaboration among designated parent child~~  
11           ~~centers.~~

12           (b) ~~The Secretary of Human Services shall:~~

13           ~~(1) upon applications made annually, award grants to eligible parent-~~  
14           ~~child centers;~~

15           ~~(2) establish, by rule, a formula for determining the amount of grants~~  
16           ~~awarded under this chapter and minimum eligibility standards for such awards~~

17           The Parent Child Center Network may recommend to the Secretary of Human  
18           ~~Services or a designee one or more new parent child centers for designation~~  
19           ~~every six years. Upon receipt of the Network’s recommendations, the~~  
20           ~~Secretary or designee shall review each parent child center recommended for~~  
21           ~~designation to ensure it meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c) of this~~

1 section. A parent child center recommended by the Network and determined  
2 to meet the criteria in subsection (c) of this section by the Secretary or a  
3 designee shall be deemed a designated parent child center.

4 (c) In order to be eligible for ~~a grant under this chapter, a parent child~~  
5 center designation pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, a parent child  
6 center shall:

7 (1) Receive some funding from one or more private, local, or federal  
8 source. Contributions in kind, whether material, commodities, transportation,  
9 or office space, may be used to satisfy the contribution requirement of this  
10 subdivision.

11 (2) Qualify for tax exempt status under the provisions of Section 501(c)  
12 of the Internal Revenue Code.

13 (3) Have parent representation on its board of directors.

14 (4) Represent a designated geographic catchment area.

15 (5) Complete a peer review every three years, which shall be conducted  
16 by the Parent Child Center Network.

17 (6) Provide each of the eight core services set forth in subsection (d) of  
18 this section.

19 (7) Indicate an intention to participate in the Parent Child Center  
20 Network as a member.

1           (8) Work to achieve population level quality of life outcomes related to  
2           children and families pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2311.

3           ~~(d) A parent child center funded under this chapter shall:~~

4           ~~(1) provide leadership in the coordination of services for families with~~  
5           ~~other community service providers;~~

6           ~~(2) provide such financial or programmatic information as may be~~  
7           ~~necessary to enable the Secretary of Human Services to evaluate the services~~  
8           ~~provided through grant funds, the effect of such services on consumers of these~~  
9           ~~services and an accounting of the expenditure of grant funds;~~

10           ~~(3) participate in an annual peer review process conducted by the parent-~~  
11           ~~child center network and the Agency of Human Services designated parent~~  
12           ~~child center shall provide the following eight core services:~~

13           ~~(1) home visits;~~

14           ~~(2) early childhood services;~~

15           ~~(3) parent education;~~

16           ~~(4) playgroups;~~

17           ~~(5) parent support groups;~~

18           ~~(6) concrete supports;~~

19           ~~(7) community development; and~~

20           ~~(8) resources and referrals.~~

1       (e) Any parent child center in existence on January 1, 2020 shall be deemed  
2       to meet the designation criteria in subsection (c) of this section.

3       § 3702. FUNDING

4       (a) The Secretary of Human Services shall annually disperse a joint  
5       appropriation for all parent child center services to the Parent Child Center  
6       Network, which shall distribute funding to each designated parent child center.  
7       Notwithstanding, subsection (c) of this section, any increases to base funding  
8       shall be based on increased community need, the provision of additional  
9       services, or the designation of a new parent child center.

10       (b) The Parent Child Center Network shall work in partnership with the  
11       Agency of Human Services to develop appropriate measures of accountability  
12       and to provide any financial or programmatic information as may be necessary  
13       to enable the Secretary to evaluate the services provided through grant funds,  
14       the effect of services on consumers, and an accounting of the expenditure of  
15       grant funds.

16       (c) In determining the annual appropriation for the Parent Child Center  
17       Network, the Secretary shall employ an annual inflation factor that is  
18       reasonable and that adequately reflects economic conditions.

19       Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION

20       In fiscal year 2021, \$7,500,000.00 is appropriated to the Parent Child  
21       Center Network.

1       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

2       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.