

S.91

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) “Concrete supports” means community services and resources to address the immediate needs of the family or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family, or both.

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

(3) “Parent Child Center Network” means an Agency of Human Services’ community partner composed of designated parent child centers that

ensures accountability and collaboration among designated parent child centers.

(4) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Human Services or designee.

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

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

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

The Parent Child Center Network may recommend to the Secretary of Human Services one or more new parent child centers for designation. Upon receipt of the Network’s recommendations, the Secretary shall review each parent child center recommended for designation to ensure it meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c) of this section. A parent child center recommended by the Network and determined to meet the criteria in subsection (c) of this section by the Secretary shall be deemed a designated parent child center.

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

(1) Receive some funding from one or more private, local, or federal source. Contributions in kind, whether material, commodities, transportation,

or office space, may be used to satisfy the contribution requirement of this subdivision.

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

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

(4) Represent a designated geographic catchment area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(3) participate in an annual peer review process conducted by the parent-child center network and the Agency of Human Services~~ designated parent child center shall provide, either directly or indirectly through formal community partnerships, the following eight core services:

- (1) home visits;
- (2) early childhood services;
- (3) parent education;
- (4) playgroups;
- (5) parent support groups;
- (6) concrete supports;
- (7) community development; and
- (8) resources and referrals.

(e) Any parent child center in existence on January 1, 2021 shall be deemed to meet the designation criteria in subsection (c) of this section.

§ 3702. FUNDING

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

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

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.