

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 through the core services listed in subsection (d) of this section on behalf of the State.

(3) “Parent Child Center Network” or “Network” means an Agency of Human Services’ community partner composed of authorized parent child centers that ensures accountability and collaboration among authorized 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 Secretary shall authorize a parent child center in accordance with this chapter.

(2) The Secretary shall conduct a reauthorization review of each authorized parent child center at least every six years.

(3) The Parent Child Center Network may recommend to the Secretary one or more new parent child centers for authorization. Upon receipt of the Network’s recommendations, the Secretary shall review each parent child center recommended for authorization 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 may be deemed an authorized parent child center.

~~(c) In order to be eligible for a grant under this chapter, a parent child center~~ authorization 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~~ a board of directors:

(A) whose membership reflects the growing diversity of Vermont's children and families, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color, as well as with regard to socioeconomic status, geographic location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status; and

(B) that has parent representation.

(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~~ An authorized 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.

§ 3702. FUNDING

(a) The Secretary of Human Services shall disperse a joint allocation for all parent child center services to the Parent Child Center Network, which shall distribute funding to each authorized parent child center.

(b) The Agency shall consult with the Parent Child Center Network to develop appropriate measures and methods of accountability for authorized members of the Network. The Network and authorized parent child centers shall provide any previously agreed upon information 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. 33 V.S.A. § 3701 is amended to read:

§ 3701. PARENT CHILD CENTER NETWORK; ELIGIBILITY

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(c) In order to be eligible for authorization pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, a parent child center shall:

* * *

(9) Have an advisory committee that meets regularly and provides input, guidance, and feedback to the board of directors on programs and services provided by the parent child center.

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Sec. 3. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION STATUS

Any parent child center in existence on July 1, 2022 shall be deemed to have met the authorization criteria in 33 V.S.A. § 3701(c) through the time period of the parent child center's next reauthorization review pursuant to 33 V.S.A. § 3701(b)(2).

Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022, except that Sec. 2 (Parent Child Center Network; eligibility) shall take effect on July 1, 2024.