



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB1794

Introduced 2/9/2023, by Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 1305/10-16 new

Amends the Department of Human Services Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish a home visiting program to support communities in providing intensive home visiting programs to pregnant persons and families with children from birth up to elementary school enrollment. Provides that services shall be offered on a voluntary basis to families. Provides that, in awarding grants under the program, the Department shall prioritize populations or communities in need of such services, as determined by the Department, based on data including, but not limited to, statewide home visiting needs assessments. Provides that eligibility under the program shall also take into consideration requirements of the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program to ensure appropriate alignment. Provides that the overall goals for these services are to: (1) improve maternal and newborn health; (2) prevent child abuse and neglect; (3) promote children's development and readiness to participate in school; and (4) connect families to needed community resources and supports. Contains provisions concerning grants to community-based organizations to implement home visiting and family support services; services provided under the home visiting program; infrastructure supports for grantees such as professional development for the workforce, technical assistance and capacity-building, and infant and early childhood mental health consultation; collaboration between the Department and other specified agencies to implement the home visiting services to ensure service alignment with services provided through the Early Childhood Block Grant and the State's Medical Assistance Program; and the establishment of an advisory committee. Grants the Department rulemaking authority.

LRB103 26871 KTG 53235 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Human Services Act is amended  
5 by adding Section 10-16 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-16 new)

7 Sec. 10-16. Home visiting program.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that research-informed home  
9 visiting programs work to strengthen families' functioning and  
10 support parents in caring for their children to ensure optimal  
11 child development.

12 (b) The Department shall establish a home visiting program  
13 to support communities in providing intensive home visiting  
14 programs to pregnant persons and families with children from  
15 birth up to elementary school enrollment. Services shall be  
16 offered on a voluntary basis to families. In awarding grants  
17 under the program, the Department shall prioritize populations  
18 or communities in need of such services, as determined by the  
19 Department, based on data including, but not limited to,  
20 statewide home visiting needs assessments. Eligibility under  
21 the program shall also take into consideration requirements of  
22 the federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home  
23 Visiting Program to ensure appropriate alignment. The overall

1 goals for these services are to:

2 (1) improve maternal and newborn health;

3 (2) prevent child abuse and neglect;

4 (3) promote children's development and readiness to  
5 participate in school; and

6 (4) connect families to needed community resources and  
7 supports.

8 (b) Allowable uses of funding include:

9 (1) Grants to community-based organizations to  
10 implement home visiting and family support services with  
11 fidelity to research-informed home visiting program  
12 models, as defined by the Department. Services may  
13 include, but are not limited to:

14 (A) personal visits with a child and the child's  
15 parent or caregiver at a periodicity aligned with the  
16 model being implemented;

17 (B) opportunities for connections with other  
18 parents and caregivers in their community and other  
19 social and community supports;

20 (C) enhancements to research-informed home  
21 visiting program models based on community needs  
22 including doula services, and other program  
23 innovations as approved by the Department; and

24 (D) referrals to other resources needed by  
25 families.

26 (2) Infrastructure supports for grantees, including,

1 but not limited to, professional development for the  
2 workforce, technical assistance and capacity-building,  
3 data system and supports, infant and early childhood  
4 mental health consultation, trauma-informed practices,  
5 research, universal newborn screening, and coordinated  
6 intake.

7 (c) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall award  
8 grants to community-based agencies in accordance with this  
9 Section and any other rules that may be adopted by the  
10 Department. Successful grantees under this program shall  
11 comply with policies and procedures on program, data, and  
12 expense reporting as developed by the Department.

13 (d) Funds received under this Section shall supplement,  
14 not supplant, other existing or new federal, State, or local  
15 sources of funding for these services. Any new federal funding  
16 received shall supplement and not supplant funding for this  
17 program.

18 (e) The Department shall collaborate with relevant  
19 agencies to support the coordination and alignment of home  
20 visiting services provided through other State and federal  
21 funds, to the extent possible. The Department shall  
22 collaborate with the State Board of Education and the  
23 Department of Healthcare and Family Services in the  
24 implementation of these services to support alignment with  
25 home visiting services provided through the Early Childhood  
26 Block Grant and the State's Medical Assistance Program,

1 respectively, to the extent possible.

2 (f) An advisory committee shall advise the Department  
3 concerning the implementation of the home visiting program.  
4 The advisory committee shall make recommendations on policy  
5 and implementation. The Department shall determine whether the  
6 advisory committee shall be a newly created body or an  
7 existing body such as a committee of the Illinois Early  
8 Learning Council. The advisory committee shall consist of one  
9 or more representatives of the Department, other members  
10 representing public and private entities that serve and  
11 interact with the families served under the home visiting  
12 program, with the input of families engaged in home visiting  
13 or related services themselves. Family input may be secured by  
14 engaging families as members of this advisory committee or as  
15 a separate committee of family representatives.

16 (g) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to  
17 implement this Section.