



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2313

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Sara Feigenholtz

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/5g new

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Provides that beginning in State Fiscal Year 2023, and for every State fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Children and Family Services shall implement the reimbursement methodology outlined in a specified provision of the Illinois Administrative Code when calculating and determining the payment reimbursements for community-based agencies that contract with the Department to provide specified services, including, but not limited to: (i) residential services; (ii) specialized, adolescent, treatment, or other non-traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care services; (iii) intact family services; and (iv) teen parenting services. Provides that the payment reimbursement calculated and determined, as provided in the amendatory Act, shall be subject to appropriation. Effective immediately.

LRB102 11739 KTG 17073 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services'
3 stated mission is to protect children who are reported to be
4 abused or neglected and to increase their families' capacity
5 to safely care for them; provide for the well-being of
6 children in their care; provide appropriate, permanent
7 families as quickly as possible for those children who cannot
8 safely return home; support early intervention and child abuse
9 prevention activities and work in partnerships with
10 communities to fulfill this mission; and

11 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies provide care and
12 services for more than 80% of children involved with the child
13 welfare system on behalf of the State of Illinois, which has a
14 moral, legal, and financial responsibility to provide them
15 with the best possible care; and

16 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies serve populations of
17 children, youth, and families of color which are
18 disproportionately represented in the child welfare system;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services
21 contracts with community-based agencies to provide services
22 for, but not limited to, children and youth in foster care,
23 intact families, and congregate care settings, at an

1 established fixed reimbursement methodology which should
2 include all costs associated with the delivery of those
3 services; and

4 WHEREAS, Providers of residential services,
5 non-traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care services,
6 intact family services, and teen parenting services are
7 crucial in supporting children and families, especially those
8 who face greater challenges due to structural racism,
9 pervasive poverty, and trauma exposure; and

10 WHEREAS, If such providers and their programs are
11 inadequately reimbursed, it can lead to the most vulnerable
12 children and families in society being left without connection
13 to necessary services; and

14 WHEREAS, The community-based agencies that provide these
15 vital services continually face rising operational and
16 personnel expenditures such as competitive employee wages,
17 increasing insurance premiums, employee benefits, occupancy,
18 utilities, and training and travel expenditures, yet the
19 reimbursements provided to the community-based agencies are
20 not adjusted for these costs-of-doing-business expenses; and

21 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies employ a diverse
22 workforce, a significant proportion of which identify as Black

1 and Latinx; and

2 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of the General Assembly to
3 promote the health, safety, and well-being of children, youth,
4 and families in the care of the Department of Children and
5 Family Services; and

6 WHEREAS, Investing in community-based agencies will help
7 the General Assembly meet its obligation and improve outcomes
8 for all families to reach their full potential and to ensure a
9 stronger and more equitable future for the children, youth,
10 and families in the care of the Department of Children and
11 Family Services; and

12 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the General Assembly
13 establish a standardized annual process that includes
14 adjustments for the cost of doing business, as measured by the
15 Consumer Price Index, and for evaluating and setting the
16 reimbursement for required child welfare services to ensure
17 sufficient resources to obtain the appropriate outcomes for
18 children, youth, and families involved in the Illinois child
19 welfare system; therefore

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

1 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended
2 by adding Section 5g as follows:

3 (20 ILCS 505/5g new)

4 Sec. 5g. Payment for reimbursable services.

5 (a) As used in this Section, "consumer price index" means
6 the index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the
7 United States Department of Labor that measures the consumer
8 price index of all items less medical care in Midwest urban
9 areas, for all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted.

10 (b) Beginning in State Fiscal Year 2023, and for every
11 State fiscal year thereafter, the Department shall implement
12 the reimbursement methodology outlined in 89 Ill. Adm. Code
13 356.50(f) when calculating and determining the payment
14 reimbursements for community-based agencies that contract with
15 the Department to provide any of the services enumerated in 89
16 Ill. Adm. Code 356.50(f) and in paragraph (1) of this
17 subsection. Payment reimbursements calculated and determined
18 as provided in this Section shall include an amount equal to
19 any increase in the general inflation as determined by the
20 consumer price index. The contractual and grant services under
21 this Section to which the reimbursement methodology shall
22 apply include the following:

23 (1) Residential services, including child care
24 institution, group home care, independent living services,

1 and transitional living services.

2 (2) Specialized, adolescent, treatment, or other
3 non-traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care.

4 (3) Traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care.

5 (4) Intact Family Services.

6 (5) Teen Parenting Services.

7 (c) The payment reimbursements calculated and determined
8 as provided in this Section shall be subject to appropriation.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
10 becoming law.