

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 and Head Start and Early Head Start to ensure

1 appropriate alignment. The overall goals for these services
2 are to:

3 (1) improve maternal and newborn health;

4 (2) prevent child abuse and neglect;

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

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

9 (b) Allowable uses of funding include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Early Childhood Block Grant and the State's Medical Assistance
2 Program, respectively, to the extent possible.

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

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