

Executive

KIDCD17 Department of Children and Youth programming and conforming changes

R.C. 9.55, conforming changes in numerous R.C. sections, Repealed: 121.374, 3301.521

Makes programming and conforming changes to reflect the transfer of the following children's services programs to DCY: (1) adoption, (2) child care, (3) child welfare, (4) early childhood education, (4) early intervention, (5) home visiting, (6) maternal and infant vitality, and (7) preschool special education.

Fiscal effect: State expenditures related to these programs will instead be appropriated to DCY instead of ODJFS, ODE, ODH, DODD, OhioMHAS, and DEV budgets.

KIDCD1 Creation of the Department of Children and Youth

R.C. 5180.01, 121.02, 121.03, 121.35, 121.37, 121.40, 3109.15-3109.17, 3109.179, 5101.34-5101.342, 5180.02, Sections 130.10-103.16 and 423.140

Creates DCY on July 1, 2023, to serve as the state's primary children's services agency and establishes the position of DCY Director.

Requires DCY to facilitate and coordinate the delivery of children's services in Ohio.

Addresses the transfer of duties to DCY relating to children's services, including by doing the following:

(1) Requiring specified Directors (DCY, ODJFS, ODE, ODH, DODD, ODM, OhioMHAS, and DEV), or their designees, to identify and develop a plan to transfer children's services duties, functions, programs, and staff to DCY by January 1, 2025.

(2) Transferring to the new DCY 90 days after the bill's effective date responsibilities currently charged to ODJFS regarding the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, the Children's Trust Fund Board, and the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

Requires the OBM Director to make budget and accounting changes to implement the transfer of duties, functions, and programs to DCY, including renaming, transferring, creating, and consolidating funds. Allows the OBM Director to also cancel or establish encumbrances and transfer appropriations between impacted agencies as necessary. Appropriates any encumbrances.

Fiscal effect: There will be administrative costs to develop a plan to facilitate this transfer. There will also be costs to establish the office (e.g. office space, supplies, etc.). Staff will be transferred from other impacted agencies, so associated personnel costs will instead be reflected in DCY's budget.

KIDCD2 Healthy Beginnings at Home

Section: 423.20

Earmarks up to \$15,000,000 in FY 2024 in GRF ALI 830402, Healthy Beginnings at Home, to be used, in coordination with ODH, to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

Earmarks up to \$1,000,000 in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 830402, Healthy Beginnings at Home, to be used for Moved to Prosper efforts.

Executive

KIDCD3 Infant Vitality

Section: 423.20

Earmarks up to \$2,500,000 in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 830404, Infant Vitality, to be used, in consultation with the Governor's Office of Children's Initiatives, to support programming by community and local faith-based service providers that invests in maternal health programs, provides services and support to pregnant mothers, and improves both maternal and infant health outcomes. Requires the remainder of the ALI to be used to fund a multi-pronged population health approach to address infant mortality.

Specifies that this approach may include the following: increasing awareness, including awareness regarding respiratory syncytial virus; supporting data collection; analysis and interpretation to inform decision-making and ensure accountability; targeting resources where the need is greatest; and implementing quality improvement science and programming that is evidence-based or based on emerging practices.

Specifies that measureable interventions may include activities related to safe sleep, community engagement, group prenatal care, preconception education, continuous support for women during pregnancy and childbirth, patient navigators, community health workers, early childhood home visiting, newborn screening, safe birth spacing, gestational diabetes, smoking cessation tailored for pregnant women, breastfeeding, care coordination, and progesterone.

KIDCD4 Infant Health Grants

Section: 423.20

Requires GRF ALI 830504, Infant Health Grants, to be used, in consultation and coordination with OCMH, to support the continuation or expansion of a pathways community HUB model that has the primary objective of reducing infant mortality.

KIDCD5 Strong Families Strong Communities

Section: 423.30

Earmarks up to \$4,500,000 in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 830406, Strong Families Strong Communities, to be used to provide funding for community projects across the state that focus on support for families, assisting families in avoiding crisis, and crisis intervention.

KIDCD6 Early Childhood Mental Health

Section: 423.30

Requires GRF ALI 830505, Early Childhood Mental Health, to be used to promote identification and intervention for early childhood mental health and to enhance healthy social emotional development in order to reduce preschool to third grade classroom expulsions.

Requires funds to be used, in coordination with OhioMHAS, to support early childhood mental health credentialed counselors and consultation services, as well as administration and workforce development for the program.

Executive

KIDCD7 Early Childhood Education**Section: 423.40**

Earmarks up to \$20,000,000 in each fiscal year of Fund 5KT0 ALI 830606, Early Childhood Education, in coordination with ODJFS, to achieve Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) goals.

Requires DCY, in coordination with ODE, to distribute GRF ALI 830407, Early Childhood Education, to school districts, JVSs, ESCs, community schools sponsored by an exemplary sponsor, chartered nonpublic schools, and licensed childcare providers that meet at least the third highest tier of the SUTQ Program for children who are at least three years old but not yet eligible for kindergarten, and whose families earn not more than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Earmarks up to 2% of GRF ALI 830407, Early Childhood Education, to be used by DCY for program support and technical assistance. Requires DCY to distribute the remainder to pay the costs of early childhood programs that serve eligible children, first to existing providers that received early childhood education funds in the previous fiscal year and the balance to new eligible providers or to existing providers to serve more eligible children or for purposes of program expansion, improvement, or special projects to promote quality and innovation, including piloting all-day programming.

Requires DCY to distribute new or remaining funds to serve more eligible children where there is a need, as determined by DCY, and specifies that such funds be distributed based on community economic disadvantage, limited access to high quality preschool or childcare services, and demonstration of high quality preschool services.

Requires awards to providers be distributed on a per-pupil basis and that per-pupil funding be sufficient to provide eligible children with services for a standard early childhood schedule, defined as a minimum of 12.5 hours per week, for the minimum school year.

Requires DCY to conduct an annual survey of each provider to determine whether the provider charges families tuition or fees, the amount the families are charged relative to family income levels, and the number of families and students charged.

Specifies the following for participating programs: (1) requires funds awarded to be used to support expenses directly related to the operation of an early childhood education program, (2) prohibits development and administration costs from exceeding 15% of the cost of each program, (3) requires maintenance of fiscal records, (4) requires implementation of a corrective action plan, when needed, (5) requires participation in the SUTQ program, (6) requires providers who are not highly rated under the SUTQ program to meet certain program requirements, including (a) certain qualifications for teachers, (b) alignment of curriculum to the early learning content standards, (c) documentation and reporting of child progress, (d) adherence to early learning program standards, and (e) administration of certain child or program assessments, (7) requires providers who are highly rated to comply with the requirements under the SUTQ system, and (8) requires charging a fee, based on a sliding scale, to families who earn more than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Requires eligible expenditures to be claimed each fiscal year to help meet the state's TANF maintenance of effort requirement and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the DCY Director, and the ODJFS Director to enter into an interagency agreement to fulfill this requirement including developing reporting guidelines for these expenditures.

Executive

Requires DCY and ODJFS to continue to align the application process, program eligibility, funding, attendance policies, and attendance tracking for early childhood programs in both agencies.

Requires DCY to provide an annual report regarding early childhood education programs and the early learning program standards.

Fiscal effect: The bill appropriates \$114.2 million in each fiscal year to GRF ALI 830407 and \$20.0 million in each fiscal year to Fund 5KT0 ALI 830606 for early childhood education programs.

KIDCD8 Early Learning Assessment

Section: 423.50

Earmarks up to \$2,760,000 of GRF ALI 830408, Early Learning Assessment, in each fiscal year for costs associated with the state's early learning assessment work and diagnostic assessments.

KIDCD9 Child Care Licensing

Section: 423.50

Requires GRF ALI 830409, Child Care Licensing, to be used, in consultation and coordination with ODE, to license and inspect preschool and school-age child care programs.

KIDCD10 Court Appointed Special Advocates

Section: 423.60

Makes the following earmarks in GRF ALI 830502, Court Appointed Special Advocates:

- (1) Up to \$333,333 in each fiscal year to support administrative costs of existing court-appointed special advocate programs.
- (2) Up to \$666,667 in each fiscal year to establish court-appointed special advocate programs in areas of the state not served by existing programs and to support existing programs.

KIDCD11 Family and Children Services and Activities

Section: 423.70, 423.80

Makes the following earmarks in GRF ALI 830506, Family and Children Services:

- (1) Up to \$25,000,000 in each fiscal year to assist with the expense of providing services to youth requiring support from multiple systems. Allows these funds to be used for youth in the custody of a PCSA, or at risk of entering custody, by custody relinquishment or another mechanism. Requires the DCY Director to adopt rules to administer the funding.
- (2) Up to \$10,000,000 in each fiscal year to incentivize best practices. Requires the DCY Director to adopt rules to administer this funding.

Executive

(3) Up to \$145,040,010 in FY 2024 and up to \$155,040,010 in FY 2025 to be provided, in coordination with ODJFS, to PCSAs, including \$200,000 to each county and the remaining amount distributed to counties using a statutory formula developed by ODJFS that addresses payments to counties for part of their children services costs.

(4) Up to \$8,500,000 in each fiscal year to be used to support the Kinship Care Navigator Program, which may be used to match eligible federal Title IV-E funds.

Requires counties that contributed local funds in fiscal year 2019 to the county children services fund, to continue to contribute funds if the state child protective services allocation in FY 2024 and FY 2025 exceeds the amount provided in FY 2019.

Requires the DCY Director, in consultation and coordination with the ODJFS Director, to adopt rules, which include a hardship provision, to determine the amount of local funds each county must contribute.

Requires Fund 4F10 ALI 830607, Family and Children Activities, to be used to expend miscellaneous foundation funds and grants to support family and children services activities.

KIDCD12 Wendy's Wonderful Kids

Section: 423.90

Permits a total of up to \$12,000,000 in each fiscal year from GRF ALI 830506, Family and Children Services, Fund 3270 ALI 830601, Child Welfare, and Fund 3980 ALI 830612, Adoption Program, to be used to provide funds to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption to implement statewide the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program of professional recruiters who use a child-focused model to find permanent homes for children in Ohio foster care.

KIDCD13 Family and Children First Flexible Funding Pool

Section: 423.100

Permits a county family and children first council to establish and operate a flexible funding pool to assure access to needed services by families, children, and older adults in need of protective services. Specifies the restrictions governing the flexible funding pools.

Permits, in collaboration with the county family and children first council, a CDJFS or PCSA that receives an allocation from GRF ALIs 830506, Family and Children Services, or 830502, Court Appointed Special Advocates, to transfer a portion of either or both allocations to a flexible funding pool.

Executive

KIDCD14 Community Social Service Programs

Section: 423.110

Allows a portion of Fund 3250 ALI 830609, Community Social Service Programs, in coordination with DODD, to be used by the Early Intervention Services Advisory Council for the following purposes, in addition to other necessary and allowed uses of funds: (1) conduct forums and hearings; (2) reimburse council members for certain reasonable and necessary expenses; (3) pay compensation to a council member if the member is not employed or must forfeit wages when performing official council business; (4) hire staff; and (5) obtain the services of professional, technical, and clerical personnel as necessary.

Specifies that council members must otherwise serve without compensation or reimbursement.

KIDCD15 Ohio Commission on Fatherhood

Section: 423.120

Earmarks up to \$5,500,000 in each fiscal year from Fund 3V60 ALI 830605, TANF Block Grant, for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.

KIDCD16 Publicly Funded Child Care Eligibility

Section: 423.130

Establishes through June 30, 2025, the maximum income for a family's eligibility for publicly funded child care at 160% of the federal poverty line for initial eligibility and 300% for continued eligibility.

Fiscal effect: ODJFS estimates that this will cost \$101 million per fiscal year and an additional 15,000 children will be served. ODJFS states that Fund 3H70 line item 600661 will be used for this increase, which has an appropriation in FY 2023. Funds will be encumbered at the end of FY 2023 to support this.

Executive

JFSCD57 Adoption Grant Program

Section: 307.140

Requires GRF ALI 600562, Adoption Grant Program, be used, in consultation with DCY, to administer grants to adoptive parents through the Adoption Grant Program.

JFSCD64 ARPA Childcare

Section: 307.230

Requires \$150,000,000 in FY 2024 in Fund 5CV3 ALI 6006A7, ARPA Childcare, be used by ODJFS, in consultation with DCY, to:

- 1) Establish a child care scholarship for critical occupations and other direct service professionals as identified in consultation with the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation. Requires individuals awarded scholarships to have incomes that are less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
 - 2) Increase access to licensed child care programs for infants and toddlers and streamline administrative efficiency of the childcare program, in accordance with the program guidelines for the use of these funds provided by the U.S Department of the Treasury.
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