

Executive

**KIDCD29 Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council changes**

**R.C. 121.37**

Removes the prohibition that an individual whose family receives, or has received, services from an agency represented on a county family and children first council cannot serve on the council if the individual is employed by an agency represented on the council. Requires such an individual to complete a conflict of interest disclosure form and abstain from votes that involve the individual's employer.

Permits, rather than requires, the number of county council members representing families to equal 20% of the council's membership.

Authorizes district level administrative designees to serve on the council instead of the superintendent of the school district with the largest number of pupils in the county and another superintendent representing other districts.

Permits, rather than requires, the administrative agent of the county council to send notice to specified persons when a member has been absent from a specified number of meetings.

Makes technical corrections relating to agency cross references.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**KIDCD38 DCY duties and responsibilities and conforming changes**

**R.C. 121.37, 149.43, 1347.08, 2101.16, 2151.3527, 2151.421, 3107.062-3107.065, 3107.391, 3115.201, 3301.0714, 3301.0723, 3301.541, 3701.045, 5101.211, 5101.212, 5101.215, 5101.222, 5101.242, 5101.26, 5101.272, 5101.273, 5101.28, 5101.30, 5101.33, 5101.351, 5101.38, 5101.461, 5101.892, 5101.899, 5103.021, 5103.15, 5103.155, 5103.41, 5104.37, 5104.99, 5123.191, 5139.05, 5139.08, 5139.34, 5153.10; Section 830.10**

Makes conforming changes and technical corrections to reflect the transfer of various duties and responsibilities to DCY in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

Transfers or adds responsibility related to specified other programs to DCY, including the Putative Father Registry, child fatality review boards, scholars residential centers, access to records of public assistance recipients, access to DCY records by the Youth and Family Ombudsman Office, coordination with DYS, and providing technical assistance to a court-appointed receiver of a DODD-licensed residential facility.

**Fiscal effect: Costs relating to programs and activities being transferred or relating to any additional responsibilities will also be transferred to DCY and will be reflected in DCY's budget rather than ODJFS, ODH, or other applicable state agency budgets.**

**KIDCD41 Prevention services**

**R.C. 2151.421, 2151.423, 5153.16**

Clarifies that existing law regarding referrals by a PCSA and the disclosure of confidential information discovered during an investigation to a prevention services provider applies to prevention services provided to the family, instead of just the child.

Makes it discretionary, rather than mandatory under current law, for a PCSA to refer a family to prevention services if it determines the family would benefit from the services, and if the services are available from a local provider or other reasonable source.

Executive

Clarifies that the existing requirement for a PCSA, as part of its duties, to enter into a contract with an agency providing prevention services, applies when the PCSA refers a family for prevention services.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal.**

**KIDCD42 Mandatory reporter of child abuse and neglect**

**R.C. 2151.421**

Adds an employee of an entity providing home visiting services under the Help Me Grow program as a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect.

**Fiscal effect: If additional cases of neglect or abuse are reported, there could be an increase in investigative costs for PCSAs or local enforcement agencies.**

**KIDCD33 Ohio Adoption Grant Program changes**

**R.C. 2921.13, 5101.191, 5101.192, 5101.193, 5101.194**

Makes the following changes to the Ohio Adoption Grant Program application process:

- (1) Requires that the payment be provided to all eligible applicants to the extent state funds are available for this purpose.
- (2) Requires the adoptive parent to be an Ohio resident at the time the adoption was finalized to be eligible for a grant.
- (3) Makes any person who produces or submits false or misleading documentation or information to DCY for the purpose of receiving a grant guilty of the crime of falsification, a first degree misdemeanor.
- (4) Clarifies that court and legal documents required as part of the application must be certified copies.
- (5) Includes courts among other entities the DCY Director may require to provide documents related to an adoption grant application.
- (6) States that a confidential record submitted to DCY as part of a grant application remains confidential after submission.
- (7) Requires that the DCY Director provide either of the specified one-time grant payments to eligible adoptive parents.

**Fiscal effect: The bill appropriates \$34.0 million in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 830416, Adoption Grant Program. It is possible that some of the provisions (e.g. requiring the adoptive parent to be an Ohio resident when the adoption is finalized) could reduce the number of grants provided depending on current practice. Additionally, local courts could realize an increase in costs if there are any cases of violations.**

Executive

**KIDCD34 Foster care adoption waiting period removal**

**R.C. 3107.012, 3107.031**

Removes the minimum six-month period that a foster child must have resided in a foster caregiver's home before the foster caregiver (1) may submit an application to adopt the child and (2) is exempt from adoption home study requirements.

**Fiscal effect: If a foster caregiver is able to start an adoption application sooner, and this leads to a quicker adoption process, foster care maintenance costs could be reduced.**

**KIDCD27 Child abuse and child neglect prevention regions**

**R.C. 3109.171**

Eliminates law establishing eight child abuse and child neglect prevention regions and listing the counties constituting each region, and instead requires the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board, in consultation with DCY, to determine the number of regions and counties within each region.

Requires each county to be included in a child abuse and child neglect prevention region.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal costs to determine regions.**

**KIDCD26 Child abuse and child neglect regional prevention council**

**R.C. 3109.172, Section 731.10**

Reduces the term of each member of a child abuse and child neglect regional prevention council appointed by the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board from three years to two years (maintains the existing two-year term for a council member appointed by a board of county commissioners).

Allows a council member selected as chairperson of a council to be reappointed to a second term by the original appointing authority.

Clarifies that the reappointment of a chairperson by a board of county commissioners is not to be considered to be an appointment under the law that allows a board of county commissioners to appoint up to two members to a council.

Clarifies that a council member serving as of the bill's effective date may complete the member's term of office, despite the bill's reduction in terms of certain members from three years to two years.

**Fiscal effect: None.**

**KIDCD25 Regional prevention coordinator of child abuse and child neglect prevention council**

**R.C. 3109.173**

Makes permissive, instead of mandatory, that the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board select a regional prevention coordinator to oversee each child abuse and child neglect regional prevention council.

Requires Children's Trust Fund staff to serve as regional prevention coordinator for any region without a coordinator that has been selected by the Board.

Executive

**Fiscal effect: If a coordinator is not selected, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund would be responsible for performing these duties.**

**KIDCD28 Start-up costs for children's advocacy centers**

**R.C. 3109.178**

Allows an entity seeking to establish a children's advocacy center to request a one-time payment of up to \$5,000 from the Ohio Children's Trust Fund Board to be used towards start-up costs (existing law allows only a child abuse and child neglect regional prevention council to request this money).

**Fiscal effect: Currently, new child advocacy centers have to submit applications to regional prevention councils who in turn submit applications to the Ohio Children's Trust Fund. This could allow funding to be granted quicker.**

**KIDCD22 Preschool and school child program inspections and report**

**R.C. 3301.57**

Requires DCY alone, instead of with DEW, to: (1) provide consultation and technical assistance to entities operating preschool programs or school child programs and in-service training to staff members of those entities; (2) annually inspect each preschool program and licensed school child program; and (3) prepare an annual report on those inspections.

**Fiscal effect: Any costs DEW currently incurs relating to these duties will be eliminated.**

**KIDCD23 Contracts with entities for autism services**

**R.C. 3323.32**

Requires DCY, when applicable, to contract with an entity to administer programs and coordinate services for infants, preschool and school-age children, and adults with autism and low incidence disabilities, mirroring existing law requiring DEW to contract with an entity to administer such programs and coordinate such services.

Also requires the DCY Director, like the DEW Director under current law, to give primary consideration to the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence as the contracting entity.

**Fiscal effect: DCY's costs will depend upon the contract amount and the number of contracts necessary.**

**KIDCD39 DCY recodification**

**R.C. 5101., and 5180. (renumbering chapter sections); conforming changes in numerous other R.C. sections**

Relocates and recodifies numerous Revised Code sections that relate to the duties and responsibilities of DCY to the DCY chapter of the Revised Code (Chapter 5180.) and makes conforming changes as a result.

Makes conforming changes and technical corrections to reflect the transfer of various duties and responsibilities to DCY in H.B. 33 of the 135th General Assembly.

Removes obsolete language.

Executive

Transfers oversight of the Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review Board and the "Choose Life" Fund to DCY.

**Fiscal effect: Costs relating to these programs and activities will be transferred to DCY and reflected in DCY's budget rather than ODH or other applicable state agency budgets.**

**KIDCD37 Request for proposals to establish rate cards**

**R.C. 5101.141, 5101.145**

Allows DCY to issue a request for proposals (RFP) to establish statewide rate cards for the placement and care of children eligible for foster care maintenance payments.

Requires, if a request for proposal is issued, DCY to review and accept the reasonable costs to cover specified requirements for each child eligible for foster care maintenance payments.

Makes it discretionary, instead of mandatory under current law, that DCY establish (1) a form for agencies or entities that provide Title IV-E reimbursable placement services to children to report costs reimbursable under Title IV-E and Medicaid and (2) procedures to monitor the cost reports.

**Fiscal effect: Potential to standardize rates; impact will depend on how rate cards differ from current foster care maintenance payments.**

**KIDCD35 Removal of hearing rights for Kinship Support program denials**

**R.C. 5101.1411, (renumbered as 5180.428)**

Removes the requirement for a state hearing when ODJFS or DCY denies or terminates Kinship Support Program payments.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal.**

**KIDCD43 Summary suspension of the certificate of an institution or association**

**R.C. 5103.039**

Allows DCY to suspend the certificate of an institution or association (defined generally under existing law as an entity or individual, such as a foster caregiver, receiving or caring for children for two or more consecutive weeks) without a prior hearing for specified reasons primarily related to the actual or risk of harm to a child under the care and supervision of the institution or association.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal.**

**KIDCD36 Benefits to children under the custody of a Title IV-E agency**

**R.C. 5103.09**

Requires a Title IV-E agency that receives care and placement of a child to determine if the child is eligible for or receives certain benefits, including payments from the Social Security Administration and survivor benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the state retirement systems.

Executive

Prohibits a Title IV-E agency from using such benefits to pay for or reimburse the agency, county, or state for any cost of the child's care.

Authorizes the DCY Director to adopt rules to implement this provision.

**Fiscal effect: Depending on rules adopted, state or local costs could increase if these benefits could no longer be collected and used to help offset costs for providing care to these children. Administrative costs to PCSAs may also increase to screen children for certain benefits if they don't already do so.**

**KIDCD32 In-home aide publicly funded child care (PFCC) certification**

**R.C. 5104.12**

Removes requirement for in-home aide to be re-certified every two years to provide publicly funded child care (PFCC).

**Fiscal effect: CDJFSs could experience administrative savings.**

**KIDCD44 Payment to providers of PFCC**

**R.C. 5104.30, 5104.32, 5104.34, 5104.38**

Requires payment to PFCC providers to be made prospectively, by changing references to "reimbursement" to "payment" in the PFCC laws.

Changes the contractual payment rate for PFCC to the rate established in DCY rules.

Repeals law that allows an applicant to receive PFCC while a CDJFS determines the applicant's eligibility.

**Fiscal effect: This will ensure Ohio's compliance with federal laws and regulations.**

**KIDCD45 Adjustments to PFCC payment rates**

**R.C. 5104.302, 5104.30**

Requires the DCY Director to contract with a third-party entity to analyze child care price information for each even-numbered year (maintains the requirement that DCY establish the rate by rule in each odd-numbered year).

Authorizes the DCY Director, based on the information analyzed, to adjust provider payment rates for the even-numbered year, and requires the adjustments to be made by rule.

Authorizes the third-party entity under contract with the DCY Director, when analyzing child care price information, to consider the most recent market rate survey.

**Fiscal effect: DCY could have increased costs to contract with a third-party entity. Additionally, reimbursements to providers could be adjusted based on the information analyzed under the contract.**

Executive

**KIDCD24 Advisory councils**

**R.C. 5104.39, 5104.50 (renumbered 5180.04), 5180.21, 5180.22; Repealed: 5104.08, 5180.23, 5180.34**

Requires DCY to create the Children and Youth Advisory Council, replacing the Early Childhood Advisory Council, the Ohio Home Visiting Consortium, the Early Intervention Services Advisory Council, and the Child Care Advisory Council.

States that the purpose of the Council is to advise the Governor regarding prenatal and child-serving systems and to serve as the state advisory council on early childhood education and care and the state interagency coordinating council as required by federal law.

Requires the Governor to appoint the members of the Council.

Requires the Council to create topic-specific advisory groups addressing at least the following: early childhood education and care; children services; maternal and infant vitality; early childhood mental health services and supports; early intervention services.

Exempts the Council from sunset review.

**Fiscal effect: DCY may realize administrative costs to support the Council; however, there may also be administrative savings due to the consolidation of these councils.**

**KIDCD31 PFCC eligibility for homeless families**

**R.C. 5104.41**

Allows for families that are homeless to be considered eligible for publicly funded child care for 12 months.

Aligns Ohio law with the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act that requires eligible families receive 12 months of child care assistance before eligibility is redetermined.

**Fiscal effect: This will ensure Ohio's compliance with federal laws and regulations. According to DCY, families that are homeless are currently considered eligible.**

**KIDCD40 Early Childhood Education Grant Program**

**R.C. 5104.60, 5104.01, 5104.29, 5104.38**

Establishes the Early Childhood Education Grant Program in DCY to support and invest in Ohio's early learning and development programs (defined to include licensed child care centers, licensed family child care homes, and licensed preschools).

Establishes eligibility conditions for participating in the grant program, including that a program (1) satisfy the Step Up to Quality tiered rating specified in rules and (2) provide early learning and development services to one or more preschool-aged children who are citizens or qualified aliens and meet either of the following: have family incomes not exceeding 200% of the federal poverty line or are subject to IEPs, are placed in foster care or kinship care, or are homeless.

Allows up to 2.0% of appropriated funds to be used for program support and technical assistance. Requires the remainder to be distributed to grant recipients.

Executive

Requires the DCY Director to adopt rules to administer the program.

**Fiscal effect: The bill appropriates \$130.3 million in each fiscal year to GRF ALI 830407 for early childhood education programs.**

**KIDCD46 Ohio professional registry**

**R.C. 5104.60**

Requires the DCY Director to contract with a third-party entity to develop a registry information system to provide training and professional development opportunities to early learning and development program employees.

Requires the registry information system to comply with requirements set forth in the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and regulations adopted under the Act.

Requires the DCY Director to give primary consideration to the Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Association (OCCRRA) as the contracting entity.

Authorizes OCCRRA, if selected as the contracting entity, to utilize the registry information system that it established prior to the bill's effective date, but only if the DCY Director determines that system's principal goals and mission are consistent with the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act and its regulations.

Names the registry information system the Ohio Professional Registry.

**Fiscal effect: Various state agencies currently fund portions of the existing registry maintained by OCCRA or contract with them for services. This allows DCY to contract as well.**

**KIDCD30 Biennial summit on home visiting**

**R.C. 5180.24, (Repealed)**

Repeals law requiring DCY to facilitate, and allocate funds for, a biennial summit on home visiting.

**Fiscal effect: Any costs for the summit will be eliminated.**

**KIDCD1 Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance**

**Section: 423.20**

Earmarks up to \$500,000 in each fiscal year in GRF ALI 830402, Maternal and Infant Housing Assistance, to be used to support stable housing initiatives for pregnant mothers and to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.

**KIDCD2 Infant Vitality**

**Section: 423.30**

Makes the following earmarks in GRF ALI 830404, Infant Vitality, in each fiscal year:



**Executive**

(1) Not less than \$7,500,000 to be used 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.

(2) Up to \$1,000,000 to be used to support the per diem nonmedical services provided by residential infant care centers.

Requires the remainder of GRF ALI 830404, Infant Vitality, 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; 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 measurable 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, safe birth spacing, gestational diabetes, smoking cessation tailored for pregnant women, breastfeeding, care coordination, and progesterone.

**KIDCD3 Part C Early Intervention**

**Section: 423.40**

Makes the following earmarks in GRF ALI 830405, Part C Early Intervention:

(1) Up to \$7,000,000 in FY 2026 and up to \$9,000,000 in FY 2027 to be used by DCY to subgrant or contract with county boards of developmental disabilities for the provision of early intervention evaluations, assessments, and service coordination. Requires boards that accept these funds to maintain the level of local funding for early intervention at the same funding level as the prior fiscal year.

(2) \$1,000,000 in total in each fiscal year to be used to contract with the Cleveland Sight Center, the Cincinnati Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio to provide early intervention special instruction services and family support to children under the age of three with blindness or low vision.

**KIDCD4 Strong Families Strong Communities**

**Section: 423.50, 423.60**

Makes the following earmarks in GRF ALI 830406, Strong Families Strong Communities:

(1) Up to \$10,000,000 in FY 2026 shall be used to provide funding to qualified entities in Ohio to support any of the following: research into causes, diagnoses, prevention, and treatment of pediatric cancer; and the study of new and novel approaches to researching and treating pediatric cancer, as well as the side effects of cancer treatment, including discovering and developing new drugs, clinical trials, neurosurgery, and other surgical interventions, diagnostics, care management, and learning disabilities.

(2) Up to \$3,600,000 in each fiscal year 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.

Executive

**KIDCD5 Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health**

**Section: 423.50**

Requires GRF ALI 830505, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, to be used to promote identification and intervention for early childhood mental health and to enhance healthy social emotional development to reduce preschool expulsions and promote kindergarten readiness.

Requires these funds to be used, in coordination with DBH, to support infant and early childhood mental health credentialed professionals and consultation services, as well as administration, workforce development for the program, and program evaluation.

**KIDCD6 Early Childhood Education**

**Section: 423.70**

Requires GRF ALI 830407, Early Childhood Education, to be used to pay the costs of the Early Childhood Education Grant Program to provide quality preschool instruction to improve kindergarten readiness.

Requires DCY to distribute such funds directly to qualifying providers.

**KIDCD7 Early Care and Education Learning Standards**

**Section: 423.80**

Requires GRF ALI 830409, Early Care and Education Learning Standards, to be used to support the state's early learning assessment work, required assessments, and the implementation of curricula, assessments, and learning activities that are aligned with the science of reading and the early learning and development standards.

**KIDCD8 Parenting and Pregnancy Program**

**Section: 423.90**

Requires GRF ALI 830415, Parenting and Pregnancy Program, to be used to support the Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program.

Reappropriates an amount equal to the available balance of GRF ALI 830415 at the end of FY 2026 for the same purpose in FY 2027.

**KIDCD9 Adoption Grant Program**

**Section: 423.100**

Requires GRF ALI 440416, Adoption Grant Program, to be used to administer grants to adoptive parents through the Adoption Grant Program.

**KIDCD10 Court Appointed Special Advocates**

**Section: 423.110**

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

- (1) Up to \$333,333 to support administrative costs of existing court-appointed special advocate programs.

---

**Executive**

---

(2) Up to \$666,667 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 activities****Section: 423.120, 423.130**

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

(A) 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.

(B) Up to \$10,000,000 in each fiscal year to incentivize best practices. Requires the DCY Director to adopt rules to administer this funding.

(C) \$150,000 in each fiscal year to be distributed to Cleveland State University for the Sullivan-Deckard Scholarship Opportunity Program and the Helen Packer Scholarship Program.

(D) Not less than \$180,000,000 in FY 2026 and not less than \$185,000,000 in FY 2027 to be spent, in coordination with ODJFS, for PCSAs. Requires that these funds be allocated as follows: \$200,000 to each county and the remaining amount distributed to counties using a statutory formula.

(E) Up to \$35,309,990 in each fiscal year to be used to support activities associated with the delivery of children services activities.

(F) Up to \$20,000,000 in FY 2026 and up to \$10,000,000 in FY 2027 to be used to assist with the establishment of regional child wellness campuses. Requires the following regarding these campuses:

(1) DCY to provide one-time funding to establish regional child wellness campuses across the state to serve children and youth who are in the custody of a PCSA and who are not placed in a licensed residential setting and are otherwise spending one or more nights in an unlicensed setting.

(2) Campuses to support children in crisis in or near the communities in which the children reside and create additional capacity for short-term treatment.

(3) DCY to select entities through a competitive process.

(4) An entity to provide proof of local funding commitments that fulfill all necessary start-up costs and ongoing community commitments to ensure timely and appropriate delivery of service to meet the needs of the child, family, and communities.

(G) At least \$17,000,000 in each fiscal year to be used for federal match requirements for Title IV-B and Title IV-E funding.

(H) Up to \$3,000,000 in each fiscal year to be provided to the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers to administer and distribute grants to Child Advocacy Centers to coordinate statewide access to investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual abuse, while helping children heal.

(I) 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.

Requires counties that contributed local funds in FY 2019 to the county children services fund, to continue to contribute funds if the state child protective services allocation in FY 2026 and FY 2027 exceeds the amount provided in FY 2019.

---

**Executive**

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: 423.140**

Permits a total of up to \$10,000,000 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: 423.150**

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.

**KIDCD14 Children's Crisis Care**

**Section: 423.160**

Requires GRF ALI 830419, Children's Crisis Care, to be allocated in each fiscal year to children's crisis care facilities.

Requires the DCY Director to calculate funds semi-annually and allocate funds quarterly based on the total number of days of care for each child residing in the facility, which is determined by calculating the total days each child resides at the crisis care facility, including the date of admission, but not the day of discharge.

Permits a children's crisis care facility to decline to receive funds but requires a children's crisis care facility that accepts these funds to use the funds in accordance with state laws and rules regarding these facilities.

**KIDCD15 Maternal and Child Health Block Grant**

**Section: 423.170**

Requires up to \$5,000,000 in each fiscal year in Fund 3201 ALI 830608, Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, to be used to implement Title V Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant activities in the prenatal, maternal, perinatal, and infant domains.

Executive

**KIDCD16 Mental Health Block Grant**

**Section: 423.180**

Requires Fund 3A91 ALI 830622, Mental Health Block Grant, to be used for infant and early childhood mental health activities.

**KIDCD17 Child Care Choice Voucher Program**

**Section: 423.190**

Requires a portion of Fund 3H70 ALI 830604, Child Care, in each fiscal year to be used to establish and administer the Child Care Choice Voucher Program.

Requires the program, subject to available funds, to provide vouchers to eligible families to assist with their child care costs.

Establishes family eligibility conditions as follows: (1) the caretaker parent is employed or participating in a program of education or training for an amount of time reasonably related to the time the parent's children are receiving child care; (2) the family does not meet income eligibility for initial PFCC but the maximum family income does not exceed 200% FPL; and (3) the family meets any other DCY-established condition.

Requires the voucher program to utilize, not later than November 1, 2026, PFCC payment rates.

**Fiscal effect: According to DCY, the estimated cost of the voucher program will be \$75.0 million in FY 2026 and \$150.0 million in FY 2027.**

**KIDCD18 Community Social Service Programs**

**Section: 423.200**

Allows a portion of Fund 3IT0 ALI 830609, Community Social Service Programs, 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 otherwise serve without compensation or reimbursement.

**KIDCD19 Federal Children and Youth Grants**

**Section: 423.210**

Requires up to \$195,000 in each fiscal year in Fund 3IU0 ALI 830623, Federal Children and Youth Grants, to be used for the training of guardians ad litem and court-appointed special advocates as well as to conduct a study to demonstrate the impact of court-appointed special advocate volunteers on outcomes for children who are in child welfare custody as a result of abuse, neglect, or dependency.

**KIDCD20 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families**

**Section: 423.220**

Makes the following earmarks in Fund 3V62 ALI 830605, TANF Block Grant, in each fiscal year:

Executive

- (1) At least \$5,000,000 for the Kinship Permanency Incentive Program to promote a permanent commitment by kinship caregivers through becoming guardians and custodians over minor children who would otherwise be unsafe or at risk of harm if they remained in their own homes.
- (2) Not less than \$2,500,000 for the Ohio Commission on Fatherhood.
- (3) Not less than \$2,000,000 to support the Independent Living Initiative, including life skills training and work supports for older children in foster care and those who have recently aged out of foster care who meet TANF eligibility requirements.
- (4) Not less than \$1,000,000 for the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund.

**KIDCD21 PFCC eligibility**

**Section: 423.230**

Establishes, through June 30, 2027, the maximum income for a family's eligibility for PFCC at 160% of the federal poverty line for initial eligibility, including special needs child care, and 300% for continued eligibility.

**Fiscal effect: According to DCY, estimated costs to increase eligibility are approximately \$76.3 million in FY 2026 and \$101.8 million in FY 2027.**

## Executive

Other Education Provisions

**EDUCD34 Universal K-3 diagnostic assessment and kindergarten readiness assessment**

**R.C. 3301.079, 3301.0714, 3301.0715, 3302.03, 3313.608, Section 733.30**

Requires DEW to, by June 30, 2026, adopt a diagnostic assessment for reading and math for students in each of grades K-3.

Requires the diagnostic assessment for reading to be aligned to the science of reading.

Eliminates the requirements that blank copies of diagnostic assessments be public records and that DEW make the assessments available to school districts at no cost to the district.

Requires school districts, community schools, and STEM schools to administer the diagnostic assessments to their students by September 30 of each year, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Requires districts and schools to administer diagnostic assessments to a student with a significant cognitive disability in accordance with guidelines adopted by DEW.

Eliminates the authority of districts and schools to use an alternative assessment to measure reading skills under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and, for districts and schools that achieve specified scores on the state report card, to administer alternative diagnostic assessments.

Requires districts and schools to use and score the kindergarten readiness assessment (KRA) in accordance with rules established by the Department of Children and Youth.

Eliminates the requirement that DEW include data from the KRA on the state report cards of districts and schools.

Removes DEW from KRA data collection and reporting.

**Fiscal effect: May increase DEW's GRF assessment system costs to procure or develop the K-3 diagnostic assessments. Increases school district and other public school costs to administer the diagnostic assessments.**

Executive

---

**JFSCD21** Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office name, record access

**R.C.** 5101.891, 5101.892-5101.895, 5101.897, 5101.899

Changes the name of the Youth and Family Ombudsman Office to the Youth and Family Ombudsmen Office.

Allows the Ombudsmen Office to access records of DCY, in addition to the records of ODJFS as in continuing law.

**Fiscal effect: Minimal.**

---