



Substitute Senate Bill No. 1080

Public Act No. 19-78

AN ACT CONCERNING A TWO-GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2019*) (a) The Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, in collaboration with the Two-Generational Advisory Board established pursuant to section 17b-112l of the general statutes, as amended by this act, shall develop an interagency plan to coordinate and align delivery of services to assist families to overcome barriers to economic success.

(b) The Secretary shall begin to implement the interagency plan not later than January 1, 2020. The plan shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Development of an infrastructure to promote data sharing within and between state agencies to the extent permissible under federal and state law; (2) coordination and leverage of existing resources to assist families to overcome common barriers to economic success; (3) consideration of innovative approaches based on input of parents and other community members to increase the impact of the Two Generational Initiative; and (4) shared indicators and goals for interagency collaboration to achieve quantifiable and verifiable systems change to disrupt cycles of intergenerational poverty and advance family economic self-sufficiency and racial and socio-economic equity. Such indicators and goals, may include, but need not

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be limited to: (A) Improvements to service and resource coordination and delivery across one or more programs for early learning, adult education, child care, housing, job training, transportation, financial literacy, health and mental health services, and (B) efforts to sufficiently support pathways to family-sustaining workforce opportunities.

Sec. 2. Section 17b-112l of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

(a) There is established [an] a two-generational initiative to [foster family economic self-sufficiency in low-income households through a comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach] ~~disrupt cycles of poverty and advance family economic self-sufficiency.~~ The initiative shall [promote systemic change to create conditions across local and state public sector agencies and the private sector] collaborate across public and private sectors to support early childhood care and education, health and workforce readiness and economic self-sufficiency across two generations in the same household. Households may include, but need not be limited to, children and their mothers, fathers, noncustodial parents and other primary caregivers.

(b) The Office of Early Childhood shall serve as the two-generational initiative's coordinating agency. [for the executive branch.] The initiative may [review and consider] include review and consideration of the following, within available appropriations, to attain family economic mobility and success:

(1) [Improvements to the coordination and delivery of] Coordination and delivery of programs that improve access to services and equity in opportunity to achieve family economic success. Such programs may include, but need not be limited to, early learning programs, adult education, child care, housing, apprenticeship and job

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training, transportation, financial literacy, [and other related support services, including, but not limited to,] health and mental health services, and sufficiently supported pathways to family-sustaining workforce opportunities, offered at one location, [wherever] whenever possible; and

(2) Alignment of [existing state and local support systems around the (A) household, including how to leverage] state and federal resources around the family including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds, and services to equip such [households] families with the tools and skills needed to overcome obstacles and engage opportunities. [, and (B) the coordinated state-wide reading plan for students in kindergarten to grade three, inclusive, developed pursuant to section 10-14v;

(3) Development of a long-term plan to coordinate, align and optimize service delivery of relevant programs state wide. Such plan may include, but need not be limited to, (A) the targeted use of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds, to the extent permissible under federal law, to support two-generational programming; (B) state incentives for private entities that develop such two-generational programming; (C) streamlined resource, practice and data sharing among and between agencies that serve families involved in the initiative in order to best serve such families; and (D) the development and assessment of two-generational programming outcomes; and

(4) Partnerships between state and national philanthropic organizations, as available, to provide support, technical assistance, guidance and best practices to the participating communities in the initiative and the advisory council established pursuant to subsection (d) of this section.]

(c) [The] Implementation of the initiative shall foster the

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comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach for early care and education and workforce readiness in learning communities that may include, but need not be limited to, New Haven, Hartford, East Hartford, West Hartford, Norwalk, Meriden, Windham, Enfield, Waterbury and Bridgeport. The initiative shall be [informed by members of low-income households within these communities and] implemented in partnership with parent and family leaders to determine the priorities and challenges of low-income households. Coordinators of the initiative shall foster a peer-to-peer exchange and technical assistance in best practices between learning communities that shall be shared with the advisory [council] board established pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. The staff of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall serve as the [organizing and] administrative staff to the learning communities.

[(d) A Two-Generational Advisory Council shall be established as part of the initiative to advise the state on how to foster family economic self-sufficiency in low-income households through a comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach for early care and education and workforce readiness. The council shall consist of one member of the General Assembly appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as a cochairperson; one member of the Senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall serve as a cochairperson; one member representing the interests of business or trade organizations appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; one member with expertise on issues concerning health and mental health appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; one member on issues concerning children and families appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; one member of the General Assembly appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; a member of a low-income household selected by the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors; representatives of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations

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and scholars who are experts in two-generational programs and policies; and other business and academic professionals as needed to achieve goals for two-generational systems planning, evaluations and outcomes selected by the cochairpersons. The Commissioners of Social Services, Early Childhood, Education, Housing, Transportation, Public Health and Correction and the Labor Commissioner, or each commissioner's designee; and the Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee, shall serve as ex-officio members of the advisory council. The staff of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall serve as the organizing and administrative staff of the advisory council.

(e) Not later than September 1, 2018, the Two-Generational Advisory Council shall consult with the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of Policy and Management and the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, to develop a uniform approach among partner agencies in the two-generational initiative to facilitate data sharing in accordance with state and federal law pursuant to subparagraph (C) of subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this section.

(f) Not later than December 31, 2018, the advisory council shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, housing, human services, labor, public health, transportation and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies that includes: (1) The challenges and opportunities in working with a parent and child concurrently in a two-generational service delivery model; (2) recommendations to improve systems, policy, culture, program, budget or communications issues among agencies and service providers on the local and state levels to achieve two-generational outcomes; (3) recommendations on the elimination of

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barriers to promote two-generational success; and (4) recommendations concerning improved data sharing developed pursuant to subsection (e) of this section across two-generational initiative partner agencies.]

(d) A Two-Generational Advisory Board shall be established as part of the initiative to advise the state, the legislature and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on how to foster family economic self-sufficiency in low income households through a comprehensive two-generational service delivery approach for early child care, education and workforce readiness. The board shall work in partnership with philanthropic organizations, as available, to provide support, technical assistance, guidance and best practices to the participating communities in the initiative designated pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. The board shall consist of (1) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall serve as a cochairperson; (2) one member of the Senate appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who shall serve as a cochairperson; (3) one member representing the interests of business or trade organizations appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (4) one member with expertise on issues concerning physical and mental health appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (5) one member with expertise on issues concerning children and families appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (6) one member of the General Assembly appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (7) one member appointed by the Governor; (8) representatives of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations and scholars who are experts in two-generational programs and policies, including, but not limited to, at least one such representative and scholar with experience in developing strategies to achieve racial equity and social justice; (9) parent or family leaders representing low-income households selected by the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors, who shall

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constitute one-fourth of the board; and (10) other business and academic professionals as needed to achieve goals for two-generational systems planning, evaluations and outcomes selected by the cochairpersons. The Chief Court Administrator, or the Chief Court Administrator's designee, shall serve as ex-officio members of the advisory board. The staff of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors shall serve as the organizing and administrative staff of the advisory board.

(e) Not later than July 1, 2020, pursuant to the advisory authority established in section 3-125, the Office of the Attorney General, in consultation with the Two-Generational Advisory Board, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, the Chief Data Officer appointed pursuant to section 4-67p and the Connecticut Preschool through Twenty and Workforce Information Network, established pursuant to section 10a-57g, shall develop a uniform interagency data sharing protocol to remove legal barriers to promote cross-agency and cross-sector collaboration under this section to the fullest extent permitted under state and federal laws.

(f) Not later than December 31, 2020, and annually thereafter, the Two-Generational Advisory Board, in consultation with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, shall file a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children, education, housing, human services, labor, public health, transportation and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. The report shall include, but need not be limited to: (1) Shared indicators and goals for interagency collaboration developed pursuant to section 1 of this act, (2) improvements in Two-Generational Initiative service coordination and streamlined resources, (3) methods of improved family engagement to assure continuous feedback from family leaders regarding the priorities and challenges of

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low income households, and (4) recommendations to (A) improve systems, policy, culture, program, budget or communications issues among agencies and service providers on the local and state levels to achieve two-generational success; (B) eliminate barriers to two-generational success; and (C) improve data sharing within and between agencies to inform systems and policy direction to achieve family economic success.

(g) Within available appropriations, parent and family participants of the Two-Generational Initiative may be compensated for time and travel related to Two-Generational Advisory Board meetings and Two-Generational Initiative activities related to asset building, leadership and community engagement.

Approved June 26, 2019