

Amend CSSB 6 as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 42.052, Human Resources Code, is amended to add the following appropriately numbered sections.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law and subject to this section, the Department of Family and Protective Services shall ensure that, to the extent federal child care development funds dedicated to quality improvement activities are used to improve quality and availability of child care, those funds are used only for quality child care programs.

SECTION 2. RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF CERTAIN DEDICATED CHILD-CARE FUNDS. If the state is required to dedicate more than four percent of the amount of federal child-care development funds for the purposes provided by 42 U.S.C. Section 9858e, the department, unless otherwise required by federal law, shall ensure that any amount of the dedicated funds in excess of four percent is used to establish and implement the grant program for quality improvement activities under the following section.

(a) Subject to the availability of funds under this section or from another source, the department by rule shall establish a program under the department awards grants to child-care providers and local community-based organizations for use in providing quality improvement activities to improve the quality and availability of child-care services.

(c) The department by rule shall prescribe eligibility criteria for receipt of a grant under the program.

(d) In developing the program under this section, the department shall adopt a list of quality improvement activities for which a provider or organization is eligible to receive funding through the program. The list of activities must include:

(1) comprehensive consumer education encompassing:

(A) parent education programs;

(B) publication of quality indicators to evaluate child-care services;

(C) data collection regarding child-care and early childhood education programs; and

(D) parent referral services;

(2) professional development activities for providers,

including:

(A) training, educational materials, or technical assistance;

(B) scholarship information and assistance; and

(C) strategies to increase salaries or other forms of compensation;

(3) teacher training programs, mentoring programs, or other programs or activities that promote early development of language, literacy, and mathematical skills in young children;

(4) programs or activities that promote inclusive child care;

(5) activities promoted by the Healthy Child Care America program and other activities designed to promote the social and emotional development of young children;

(6) use of infant and toddler specialists to educate parents and provide training and technical assistance to child-care providers; and

(7) other activities the department determines will increase parental choice and improve the quality and availability of subsidized child-care services.

(e) The department shall allocate funds to local organizations for these purpose, subject to guidelines established by the department. To the extent allowed by federal law, the department may allocate federal child-care development funds for the purposes of the program.

(f) In developing and administering the program, the department shall ensure that local providers and organizations have the option to choose which of the quality improvement activities described by Subsection (d) the provider or organization wants to provide under the program.

(g) In awarding grants under the program, the department shall give priority to quality improvement activities for programs that serve infants and toddlers younger than three years of age.

(h) The department shall submit to the legislature an annual report regarding the operation of the program during the preceding year. At a minimum, the report must include the number and total amount of grants awarded during the period covered by the report.

SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the department shall adopt rules necessary for the implementation of Section.