

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 47th Legislature (2000)

SENATE BILL 1562

By: Pruitt

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to poor persons; creating the Promoting Healthy Families Program; providing for content and purposes; requiring the Department of Human Services to operate Program; stating responsibilities of Department; requiring collaboration among certain entities; providing for promulgation of rules; providing for application and contents thereof; creating the Promoting Healthy Families Program Grant Review Committee; providing for members, appointments and qualifications, terms, expenses and duties; requiring certain report; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.74-1 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. 1. There is hereby established the Promoting Healthy Families Program, which shall consist of projects and services to be offered by and through the state with funds made available from any federal block grants available for the purposes specified by this act.

2. The Promoting Healthy Families Program shall consist of integrated and coordinated projects and services that will provide eligible recipients with the necessary tools to enable them to become responsible parents. Such projects and services include but are not limited to projects designed to:

- a. promote marriage through counseling, mentoring, disseminating information about the advantages of

- marriage, enhancing relationship skills, teaching the control of aggressive behavior, and other methods,
- b. promote successful parenting through counseling, mentoring, disseminating information about good parenting practices including prepregnancy, family planning, training parents in money management, encouraging child support payments, encouraging regular visitation between noncustodial parents and their children, and other methods, and
 - c. help families avoid or leave cash welfare and improve their economic status by providing work-first services, job search, job training, subsidized employment, career-advancing education, job retention, job enhancement, and other methods.

B. The Department of Human Services shall be responsible for:

1. Implementing the provisions of the Promoting Healthy Families Program to the fullest extent permitted by law and in accordance with any terms and conditions specified by the federal government;

2. Expediting the acquisition of any federal waivers necessary to implement the provisions of the Promoting Healthy Families Program through amendments, combined waivers, requests and in any other such manner authorized by federal law and regulations; and

3. Working in close and continuous coordination with appropriate federal officials and preparing and submitting completely and in a timely manner all forms and data required by federal officials to implement the Promoting Healthy Families Program.

C. In administering the Promoting Healthy Families Program, the Department shall collaborate with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, the State Department of Health and the State Department

of Education and any other state or federal agency necessary to implement the provisions of the Promoting Healthy Families Program.

D. The Commission for Human Services shall promulgate rules for developing any projects and services to implement the Promoting Healthy Families Program.

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.74-2 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

An entity desiring to obtain a grant to carry out a project for purposes of the Promoting Healthy Families Program may submit to the Department of Human Services an application that contains the following:

1. A description of the project and how the project will be carried out;
2. A description of how the project will address all three of the purposes of the Program;
3. A written commitment by the entity that the project will allow an individual to participate in the project only if the individual is:
 - a. a parent of a child who is, or within the past twenty-four (24) months has been, a recipient of assistance or services under the Statewide Temporary Assistance Responsibility System (STARS), or
 - b. a mother or father, including an expectant or married mother or father, whose income meets the eligibility criteria established by the Department of Human Services;
4. A written commitment by the entity that the entity will provide for the project, from funds obtained from nonstate sources, amounts, including in-kind contributions, equal in value to:
 - a. twenty percent (20%) of the amount of any grant made to the entity under this section, or

- b. such lesser percentage as the Department deems appropriate of such amount, if the application demonstrates that there are circumstances that limit the ability of the entity to raise funds or obtain resources; and

5. A written commitment by the entity that the entity will make available to each individual participating in the project education about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and the effects of abusing such substances, and such other information as required by the Department.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.74-3 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. In order to assist the Department of Human Services in awarding the grants available to eligible entities pursuant to this act, there is hereby established the Promoting Healthy Families Program Grant Review Committee. The Committee shall consist of ten (10) members appointed by the Director of the Department of Human Services as follows:

1. Two marital and family therapists licensed pursuant to the Marital and Family Therapist Licensure Act who have been actively engaged in the practice of marital and family therapy for at least five (5) years;

2. Two attorneys licensed to practice law in this state whose primary practices have been in marital law for at least five (5) years;

3. Two lay-pastoral counselors;

4. Two persons representing statewide organizations in this state which are primarily devoted to marital counseling. The persons appointed shall have been members of the organization for at least five (5) years prior to appointment;

5. Two persons from nationwide organizations primarily devoted to promoting healthy families and responsible parenting. The persons appointed shall have been members of the organization for at least five (5) years prior to appointment; and

6. The Director of the Department of Human Services or designee, the State Commissioner of Health or designee and the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services shall be ex officio nonvoting members of the Committee.

B. 1. An individual shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee unless the individual has experience in programs for families, programs for the poor, programs for children, program administration, or program research.

2. In addition, an individual shall not be eligible to serve on the Committee if such service would pose a conflict of interest for the individual.

C. The Director of the Department of Human Services shall appoint the members of the Committee. Members shall serve terms of three (3) years. In making the appointments, the Director shall provide, to the extent possible, for geographic balance in the representation on the Committee. Members may be reappointed but may not exceed three three-year terms on the Committee. The Committee shall elect from among its members a chair and a vice-chair who shall serve one-year terms and may succeed themselves.

D. Members of the Committee shall not receive compensation for service on the Committee but may be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses authorized pursuant to the State Travel Reimbursement Act.

E. The Committee shall:

1. Review all applications submitted pursuant to Section 2 of this act; and

2. Make recommendations to the Department regarding which applicants should be awarded grants under the Promoting Healthy Families Program.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 230.74-4 of Title 56, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

On or before February 1 of each year, the Department of Human Services shall provide to the Legislature and the Governor a written report for the previous fiscal year, on each project specified in the Promoting Healthy Families Program which identifies:

1. Total number of new applications received by the Department for the Promoting Healthy Families Program;
2. A summary of the types of projects for which grant monies were allocated;
3. The total number of recipients accessing the projects and results;
4. An assessment and evaluation of results of the program; and
5. Such other information deemed necessary by the Department.

SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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