

“(2) AUDITS.—A State shall require each covered entity receiving assistance under the grant awarded under this section to conduct an annual audit with respect to the activities of the covered entity. Such audits shall be submitted to the State.

“(3) MISUSE OF FUNDS.—

“(A) REPAYMENT.—If the State determines, through an audit or otherwise, that a covered entity receiving assistance under a grant awarded under this section has misused the assistance, the State shall notify the Secretary of the misuse. The Secretary, upon such a notification, may seek from such a covered entity the repayment of an amount equal to the amount of any such misused assistance plus interest.

“(B) APPEALS PROCESS.—The Secretary shall by regulation provide for an appeals process with respect to repayments under this paragraph.

“(i) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) 2-YEAR STUDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine—

“(i) the capacity of covered entities to meet the child care needs of communities within States;

“(ii) the kinds of consortia that are being formed with respect to child care at the local level to carry out programs funded under this section; and

“(iii) who is using the programs funded under this section and the income levels of such individuals.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 28 months after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(2) FOUR-YEAR STUDY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall conduct a study to determine the number of child care facilities that are funded through covered entities that received assistance through a grant awarded under this section and that remain in operation, and the extent to which such facilities are meeting the child care needs of the individuals served by such facilities.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 52 months after the date on which the Secretary first awards grants under this section, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted in accordance with subparagraph (A).

“(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered entity’ means a small business or a consortium formed in accordance with subsection (d)(3).

“(2) INDIAN COMMUNITY.—The term ‘Indian community’ means a community served by an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

“(3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The terms ‘Indian tribe’ and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given the terms in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

“(4) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ‘small business’ means an employer who employed an average of at least 2 but not more than 50 employees on the business days during the preceding calendar year.

“(5) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the meaning given the term in section 658P of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858n).

“(k) APPLICATION TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In this section:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (f)(1), and in paragraphs (2) and (3), the term ‘State’ includes an Indian tribe or tribal organization.

“(2) GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES.—The term ‘State’ includes an Indian community in subsections (c) (the second and third place the term appears), (d)(1) (the second place the term appears), (d)(3)(A) (the second place the term appears), and (i)(1)(A)(i).

“(3) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—The term ‘State-level activities’ includes activities at the tribal level.

“(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

“(2) STUDIES AND ADMINISTRATION.—With respect to the total amount appropriated for such period in accordance with this subsection, not more than \$2,500,000 of that amount may be used for expenditures related to conducting studies required under, and the administration of, this section.

“(m) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.—The program established under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30, 2012.”

GOALS OF SUBCHAPTER

Section 658A(b) of subchapter C (§658A et seq.) of chapter 8 of subtitle A of title VI of Pub. L. 97-35, as added by Pub. L. 104-193, title VI, §602(3), Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2279, provided that: “The goals of this subchapter are—

“(1) to allow each State maximum flexibility in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents within such State;

“(2) to promote parental choice to empower working parents to make their own decisions on the child care that best suits their family’s needs;

“(3) to encourage States to provide consumer education information to help parents make informed choices about child care;

“(4) to assist States to provide child care to parents trying to achieve independence from public assistance; and

“(5) to assist States in implementing the health, safety, licensing, and registration standards established in State regulations.”

§ 9858a. Establishment of block grant program

The Secretary is authorized to make grants to States in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §658C, as added Pub. L. 101-508, title V, §5082(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-236; amended Pub. L. 102-401, §3(a), Oct. 7, 1992, 106 Stat. 1959; Pub. L. 102-586, §8(c)(1), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5036.)

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pub. L. 102-401 and Pub. L. 102-586 made identical technical corrections to directory language of Pub. L. 101-508, §5082(2), which added this section.

§ 9858b. Lead agency

(a) Designation

The chief executive officer of a State desiring to receive a grant under this subchapter shall designate, in an application submitted to the Secretary under section 9858c of this title, an appropriate State agency that complies with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section to act as the lead agency.

(b) Duties

(1) In general

The lead agency shall—

(A) administer, directly or through other governmental or nongovernmental agencies,

the financial assistance received under this subchapter by the State;

(B) develop the State plan to be submitted to the Secretary under section 9858c(a) of this title;

(C) in conjunction with the development of the State plan as required under subparagraph (B), hold at least one hearing in the State with sufficient time and Statewide distribution of the notice of such hearing, to provide to the public an opportunity to comment on the provision of child care services under the State plan; and

(D) coordinate the provision of services under this subchapter with other Federal, State and local child care and early childhood development programs.

(2) Development of plan

In the development of the State plan described in paragraph (1)(B), the lead agency shall consult with appropriate representatives of units of general purpose local government.

(Pub. L. 97-35, title VI, §658D, as added Pub. L. 101-508, title V, §5082(2), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1388-236; amended Pub. L. 102-401, §3(a), Oct. 7, 1992, 106 Stat. 1959; Pub. L. 102-586, §8(c)(1), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5036; Pub. L. 104-193, title VI, §604, Aug. 22, 1996, 110 Stat. 2281.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (b)(1)(A). Pub. L. 104-193, §604(1)(A), substituted “governmental or nongovernmental agencies” for “State agencies”.

Subsec. (b)(1)(C). Pub. L. 104-193, §604(1)(B), inserted “with sufficient time and Statewide distribution of the notice of such hearing,” after “hearing in the State”.

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 104-193, §604(2), struck out at end “Such consultations may include consideration of local child care needs and resources, the effectiveness of existing child care and early childhood development services, and the methods by which funds made available under this subchapter can be used to effectively address local shortages.”

1992—Pub. L. 102-401 and Pub. L. 102-586 made identical technical corrections to directory language of Pub. L. 101-508, §5082(2), which added this section.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 104-193 effective Oct. 1, 1996, see section 615 of Pub. L. 104-193, set out as a note under section 9858 of this title

§ 9858c. Application and plan

(a) Application

To be eligible to receive assistance under this subchapter, a State shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall by rule require, including—

- (1) an assurance that the State will comply with the requirements of this subchapter; and
- (2) a State plan that meets the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

(b) Period covered by plan

The State plan contained in the application under subsection (a) of this section shall be designed to be implemented during a 2-year period.

(c) Requirements of a plan

(1) Lead agency

The State plan shall identify the lead agency designated under section 9858b of this title.

(2) Policies and procedures

The State plan shall:

(A) Parental choice of providers

Provide assurances that—

(i) the parent or parents of each eligible child within the State who receives or is offered child care services for which financial assistance is provided under this subchapter are given the option either—

(I) to enroll such child with a child care provider that has a grant or contract for the provision of such services; or

(II) to receive a child care certificate as defined in section 9858n(2) of this title;

(ii) in cases in which the parent selects the option described in clause (i)(I), the child will be enrolled with the eligible provider selected by the parent to the maximum extent practicable; and

(iii) child care certificates offered to parents selecting the option described in clause (i)(II) shall be of a value commensurate with the subsidy value of child care services provided under the option described in clause (i)(I);

and provide a detailed description of the procedures the State will implement to carry out the requirements of this subparagraph.

(B) Unlimited parental access

Certify that procedures are in effect within the State to ensure that child care providers who provide services for which assistance is made available under this subchapter afford parents unlimited access to their children and to the providers caring for their children, during the normal hours of operation of such providers and whenever such children are in the care of such providers and provide a detailed description of such procedures.

(C) Parental complaints

Certify that the State maintains a record of substantiated parental complaints and makes information regarding such parental complaints available to the public on request and provide a detailed description of how such record is maintained and is made available.

(D) Consumer education information

Certify that the State will collect and disseminate to parents of eligible children and the general public, consumer education information that will promote informed child care choices.

(E) Compliance with State licensing requirements

(i) In general

Certify that the State has in effect licensing requirements applicable to child care services provided within the State, and provide a detailed description of such requirements and of how such requirements are effectively enforced. Nothing in the preceding sentence shall be construed to require that licensing requirements be