

§ 15096. Authorized activities**(a) In general**

A State that receives a grant under section 15093 of this title shall use the funds made available through the grant to carry out systems change activities that accomplish the purposes of this subchapter.

(b) Special rule

In carrying out activities authorized under this subchapter, a State shall ensure that such activities address the needs of families of children with disabilities from unserved or underserved populations.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §207, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15097. Reporting

A State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall prepare and submit to the Secretary, at the end of the grant period, a report containing the results of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §208, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15098. Technical assistance**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with appropriate public or private agencies and organizations, including institutions of higher education, with documented experience, expertise, and capacity, for the purpose of providing technical assistance and information with respect to the development and implementation, or expansion and enhancement, of a statewide system of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

(b) Purpose

An agency or organization that provides technical assistance and information under this section in a State that receives a grant under this subchapter shall provide the technical assistance and information to the lead entity of the State, family members of children with disabilities, organizations, service providers, and policymakers involved with children with disabilities and their families. Such an agency or organization may also provide technical assistance and information to a State that does not receive a grant under this subchapter.

(c) Reports to the Secretary

An entity providing technical assistance and information under this section shall prepare and submit to the Secretary periodic reports regarding Federal policies and procedures identified within the States that facilitate or impede the delivery of family support services to families of children with disabilities. The report shall include recommendations to the Secretary regarding the delivery of services, coordination with other programs, and integration of the policies described in section 15091 of this title in Federal law, other than this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §209, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1732.)

§ 15099. Evaluation**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct a national evaluation of the program of grants to States authorized by this subchapter.

(b) Purpose**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall conduct the evaluation under subsection (a) of this section to assess the status and effects of State efforts to develop and implement, or expand and enhance, statewide systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities in a manner consistent with the provisions of this subchapter. In particular, the Secretary shall assess the impact of such efforts on families of children with disabilities, and recommend amendments to this subchapter that are necessary to assist States to accomplish fully the purposes of this subchapter.

(2) Information systems

The Secretary shall work with the States to develop an information system designed to compile and report, from information provided by the States, qualitative and quantitative descriptions of the impact of the program of grants to States authorized by this subchapter on—

(A) families of children with disabilities, including families from unserved and underserved populations;

(B) access to and funding for family support services for families of children with disabilities;

(C) interagency coordination and collaboration between agencies responsible for providing the services; and

(D) the involvement of families of children with disabilities at all levels of the statewide systems.

(c) Report to Congress

Not later than 2½ years after October 30, 2000, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the results of the evaluation conducted under this section.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §210, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1733.)

§ 15100. Projects of national significance**(a) Study by the Secretary**

The Secretary shall review Federal programs to determine the extent to which such programs facilitate or impede access to, provision of, and funding for family support services for families of children with disabilities, consistent with the policies described in section 15091 of this title.

(b) Projects of national significance

The Secretary shall make grants or enter into contracts for projects of national significance to support the development of national and State policies and practices related to the development and implementation, or expansion and enhancement, of family-centered and family-directed systems of family support services for families of children with disabilities.