

(C) to enable families of children with disabilities to make informed choices and decisions regarding the nature of supports, resources, services, and other assistance made available to such families; and

(D) to support family caregivers of adults with disabilities.

**(b) Purposes**

The purposes of this subchapter are—

(1) to promote and strengthen the implementation of comprehensive State systems of family support services, for families with children with disabilities, that are family-centered and family-directed, and that provide families with the greatest possible decisionmaking authority and control regarding the nature and use of services and support;

(2) to promote leadership by families in planning, policy development, implementation, and evaluation of family support services for families of children with disabilities;

(3) to promote and develop interagency coordination and collaboration between agencies responsible for providing the services; and

(4) to increase the availability of, funding for, access to, and provision of family support services for families of children with disabilities.

**(c) Policy**

It is the policy of the United States that all programs, projects, and activities funded under this subchapter shall be family-centered and family-directed, and shall be provided in a manner consistent with the goal of providing families of children with disabilities with the support the families need to raise their children at home.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §202, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1728.)

SHORT TITLE

For short title of this subchapter as the “Families of Children With Disabilities Support Act of 2000”, see section 201 of Pub. L. 106-402, set out as a note under section 15001 of this title.

**§ 15092. Definitions and special rule**

**(a) Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) Child with a disability**

The term “child with a disability” means an individual who—

(A) has a significant physical or mental impairment, as defined pursuant to State policy to the extent that such policy is established without regard to type of disability; or

(B) is an infant or a young child from birth through age 8 and has a substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired condition that presents a high probability of resulting in a disability if services are not provided to the infant or child.

**(2) Family**

**(A) In general**

Subject to subparagraph (B), for purposes of the application of this subchapter in a

State, the term “family” has the meaning given the term by the State.

**(B) Exclusion of employees**

The term does not include an employee who, acting in a paid employment capacity, provides services to a child with a disability in an out-of-home setting such as a hospital, nursing home, personal care home, board and care home, group home, or other facility.

**(3) Family support for families of children with disabilities**

The term “family support for families of children with disabilities” means supports, resources, services, and other assistance provided to families of children with disabilities pursuant to State policy that are designed to—

(A) support families in the efforts of such families to raise their children with disabilities in the home;

(B) strengthen the role of the family as primary caregiver for such children;

(C) prevent involuntary out-of-the-home placement of such children and maintain family unity; and

(D) reunite families with children with disabilities who have been placed out of the home, whenever possible.

**(4) Secretary**

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

**(5) State**

The term “State” means each of the 50 States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**(6) Systems change activities**

The term “systems change activities” means efforts that result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, or organizational structures—

(A) that are family-centered and family-directed;

(B) that facilitate and increase access to, provision of, and funding for, family support services for families of children with disabilities; and

(C) that otherwise accomplish the purposes of this subchapter.

**(b) Special rule**

References in this subchapter to a child with a disability shall be considered to include references to an individual who is not younger than age 18 who—

(1) has a significant impairment described in subsection (a)(1)(A) of this section; and

(2) is residing with and receiving assistance from a family member.

(Pub. L. 106-402, title II, §203, Oct. 30, 2000, 114 Stat. 1729.)

**§ 15093. Grants to States**

**(a) In general**

The Secretary shall make grants to States on a competitive basis, in accordance with the pro-